

THE
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OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

CHIEFLY DEVOTED TO

Library Economy and Bibliography

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MAY, 1904

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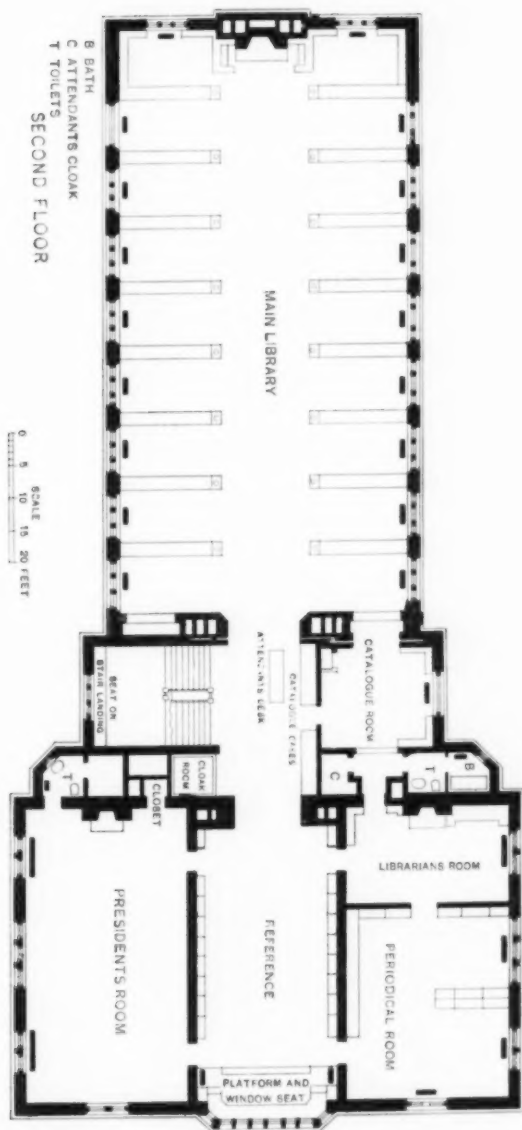
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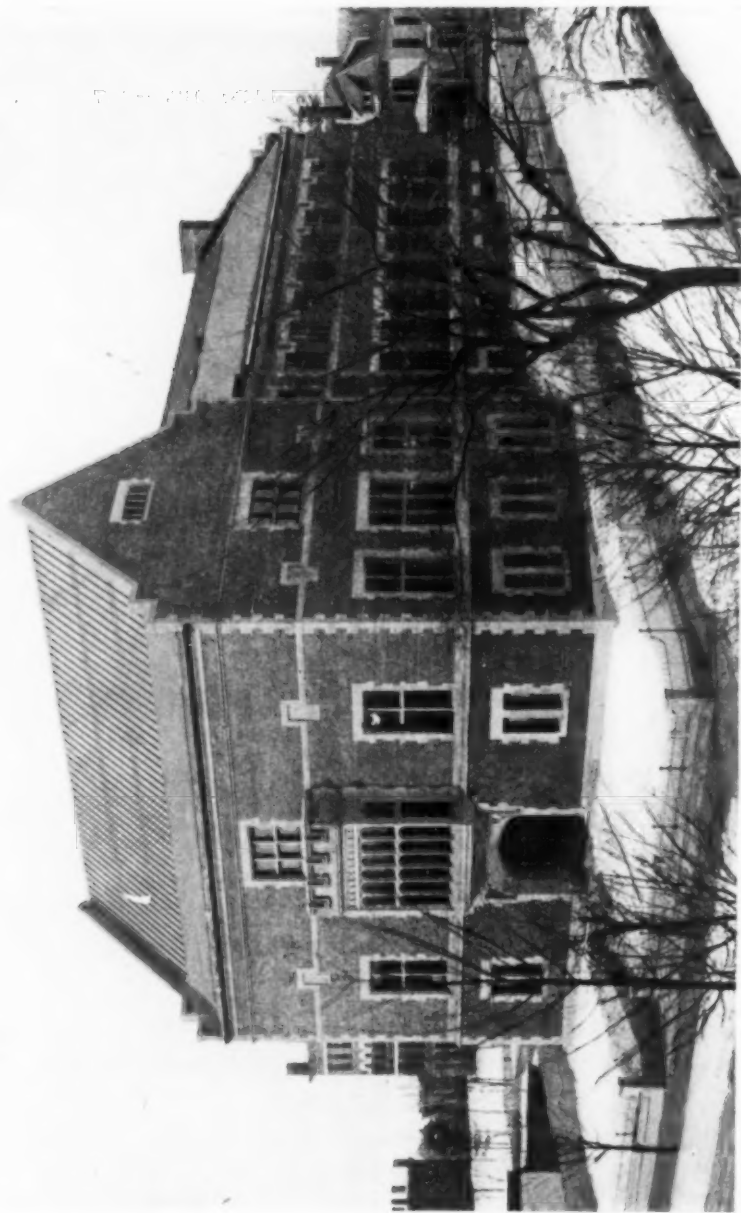
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THE LIBRARY JOURNAL.

VOL. 29.

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NO. 5

AUTOBIOGRAPHY is not always in order, but the history of the LIBRARY JOURNAL is perhaps the best comment on the imputation, noted in our last issue, that the JOURNAL is "tinged with commercialism." The JOURNAL was founded in the year marking the American library renaissance, 1876, by Frederick Leyboldt, partly as a development of the "Library corner" in the *Publishers' Weekly*, and partly on lines suggested by Mr. Dewey, then a newcomer in the library field. Out of the JOURNAL consultations, in which the present writer participated, came the first call for the American Library Association. The JOURNAL, first priced at \$5, but in 1881-83 at \$3, lost its founder several thousand dollars and added to the burdens which made him a martyr to his bibliographical enthusiasm in 1884. The JOURNAL then became and has remained the property of his family, and has been conducted by the present writer in their behalf. From 1884 to 1900 it failed in nine of these years to cover its moderate share of office expenses, the deficit becoming a charge on the general earnings, and in eight years contributed somewhat to office profit, with the net result that in the seventeen years several hundred dollars net deficit was added to the previous loss. Since 1900 it has shown substantial improvement, although in each year its margin would have been cancelled by a reduction of price even to \$4, unless an increase in subscriptions scarcely to be expected had resulted. The total result of its twenty-eight volumes has been a considerable net deficit. Through these years the JOURNAL has profited in sentiment rather than in a pecuniary way from its relations as the official organ of the Association it had helped to call into being, and the Association has been free from any drain upon its resources to make up losses on its representative periodical. It has been, is, and will be the purpose and the desire of the conductors of the LIBRARY JOURNAL to be of service through its office facilities and in every way to the Association, as for instance in the editing and publishing of the Association proceedings, with a promptness unusual in like

reports, through its office, without charge to the Association beyond manufacturing cost, the JOURNAL paying for the additional cost of the copies composing its "conference number."

THE extent of the library field is often overestimated, and it is difficult to find basis for statements that there are 10,000 or more libraries or library workers in this country. The last Bureau of Education list scheduled 5383 libraries, now perhaps increased to 6000, but of these the greater number are mere collections of books instead of working libraries. The census of 1900 reports 4184 librarians and assistants—1059 men and 3125 women. The LIBRARY JOURNAL reaches by direct paid subscriptions over 800 libraries—instead of "probably from 300 to 400"—and these cover probably more than 90 per cent. of the library efficiency of the country, reckoned either by volumes, readers, circulation, or other activity. It reaches also by paid subscriptions several hundred library workers—assistants and pupils in library schools being given the benefit of a half-rate. Its total paid subscription list exceeds the membership of the A. L. A. As the subscription rate is rightly considered high, it may be noted that the full subscription price includes the *Literary News* as a book supplement, and that this fact and the half-rate to assistants bring the average actual subscription price of the JOURNAL itself to less than \$4 per year. Each year a reduction in price, preferably to \$3, has been considered, but the experience of twenty years ago and recent experiments failed to justify the desired change.

THE present limits of the library field are otherwise strikingly shown. Library "helps" and bibliographies, whether "commercially" published or officially issued by the Publishing Board as A. L. A. publications, reach a sale usually of 500 or 600, and rarely up to 1000 copies. The admirable "Guide to the literature of American history," made possible by Mr. Iles's generosity and Mr. Larned's gra-

tuitous service, for which the facilities of a great publishing house were added to those of the Publishing Board, has sold but a thousand copies in this country, and returned but \$5000 of the \$15,000 investment. Nothing identified with the library interest has reaped pecuniary advantage except the Library Bureau, which failed when confined to the library field, but which under its later administration has developed a strong outside business which enables it to continue its library service. One part of this service is the publication, as a help to its library business, of *Public Libraries*, giving a remarkable dollar's worth, especially intended to reach new and small libraries, which has met similar limitations. Still more striking is the fact that although the Library of Congress, at the cost of many thousand dollars, has furnished the long-desired catalog cards in the best possible way and at a nominal cost, these have reached less than 400 libraries.

THIS, of course, emphasizes the argument that the A. L. A. should extend its field and wake up sleeping libraries, but this does not necessarily imply the publication of an elementary periodical, free or at nominal price. Somebody must pay for this—either the Association itself, which means an increase of the dues, or some library which is willing to contribute the editorial services of the library staff—as the Cleveland Public Library did in large measure at the start of Mr. Brett's index to periodicals—or some special interest, or some generous donor. It is notorious also, and there is direct experience in the library field in this country, that free periodicals are not valued or even read. Moreover, to extend the field and influence of the Association among small or inert libraries requiring elementary instruction is scarcely the function of a library periodical. The elementary questions were "thrashed out" years ago by the Association and in the JOURNAL, and what is now needed is statements of elementary facts and principles ready for each new or newly-awakened library. These are furnished by Mr. Dana's admirable "Library primer," issued by the Library Bureau, and by the scheme of "library tracts" of the Association itself; and the careful and discriminating circulation of such missionary publications, after making

sure that a library is willing to utilize them, should be the effective means of missionary work.

A CRITICISM more worthy of respect, if it were true, is the claim that the LIBRARY JOURNAL has not properly supported the efforts of the committee on book prices and is prevented therefrom by the relations of its publication office with the booktrade. The first committee on this subject, conservative and cautious, obtained no concessions from the publishers, and was supplanted by the present committee, more radical and aggressive, which also has failed to obtain any concession. The last committee has, nevertheless, done good service in pointing out economical lines of expenditure, and showing up cases where American editions are higher-priced than corresponding English ones. The JOURNAL, and its editor otherwise, have fully supported the contention for a larger concession to libraries, and fully co-operated in urging that the net-price system should have its logical result in reduced publishers' prices. The new committee has gone to the extreme of advising libraries to refrain from buying new books, as a boycott on publishers, and it has launched a boomerang in proposing that libraries should make it a practice to buy English editions of American copyright books. The committee now appeals to libraries to protest against a bill, resulting more or less from its own action, requiring for such importation the assent of the copyright owner, as is required in other copyright countries. On these propositions there is at least division of opinion within the Association, and the JOURNAL is entitled to take what seems to it the fair and common-sense view. So long as the JOURNAL remains the official organ of the Association it is certainly not entitled to express views contrary to those of the Association which it represents—and this principle is fully recognized. An editor has no right, as a writer, to write what he does not believe; but he has no more right to put forward, as representative, personal views which are not those of his constituency. This dilemma is properly and easily met by assigning such a topic to a writer whose views are more representative. Happily, this dilemma has never yet, it is believed, been met in the conduct of the JOURNAL.

R. R. B.

WHERE OUGHT THE EMPHASIS TO BE PLACED IN LIBRARY PURCHASES?*

BY WILLIAM E. FOSTER, *Librarian Providence (R. I.) Public Library.*

THE subject for the present discussion is stated thus: "Ought librarians to work for an increased circulation?" This, as I understand it, is the general subject under which the whole discussion groups itself. My own contribution to it will be better expressed in the phraseology which I have just used, namely, "Where ought the emphasis to be placed in library purchases" (on fiction or on non-fiction)?

An American college president whose mental processes are especially vigorous has recently maintained that the ideal point of view in matters of public discussion is when we can "differ radically and resolutely with a friend," and still retain the friendly feeling. On the present subject I do not hesitate to say that I am prepared to differ both radically and resolutely with some of those who have contributed to this discussion during the past twelve months and more. But I am not prepared to abandon the groundwork of friendly and hearty feeling which must ever underlie as well as inspire all our consultations on library matters. This, I take it, is the attitude of all of us here to-day.

The method of question and answer is an excellent one for reaching the heart of the subject, but I would not stop with the two questions already cited above. I would ask a considerably longer list of them, as follows:

1. In library purchases, what weight shall we give to the question of newness?
2. What weight shall we give to the question of fiction or non-fiction?
3. What weight shall we give to the question of quality?
4. What weight shall we give to the question of a "recreational" purpose?
5. What weight shall we give to the question of the reader's financial ability?
6. What weight shall we give to the question of the library's financial ability?
7. What other motives should be allowed to govern?
8. Ought the public library to abdicate its position of intellectual influence in the community?

* Read, in part, before the Massachusetts Library Club, April 12, 1904.

Let us now examine these questions, in their order.

1. *In library purchases, what weight shall we give to the question of newness?*

Newness is a good thing, but is it the only thing? To listen to some of the counsels given us, we might almost think that it was the chief consideration. One of the most admirably lucid pleas made in favor of this quality of newness is that of Mr. Bostwick, at the Niagara Falls conference, in speaking of current fiction. He maintains that "a first-class public library of the largest size should purchase for circulation at least one volume of every work of current fiction that would interest or entertain the average man or woman of good education and good taste";¹ and smaller libraries in proportion. One hesitates at adopting this view, for the following reason: It would seem that a just judgment of the quality of these publications would be difficult, if not impossible, until after some time has elapsed. This, however, is plainly regarded as a consideration of secondary importance, since he goes on to say that "current fiction must be read while people are talking about it"; and he frankly meets the question of its ephemeral value by remarking: "Naturally, a large proportion of current additions in fiction will be only temporary. When they have worn out, they will not be replaced."

This pronounced emphasis on newness—a wholly abnormal emphasis as it seems to me, is not unnaturally shared by the publishers of the new books. A trade journal in the West which is a spokesman of the booksellers and publishers thus expresses their view: "Can it be that librarians in general are afraid to add books that have not been indorsed by the verdict of general readers?" "Recent utterances of librarians," he disapprovingly adds, "might warrant the assumption that such is the case."² In other words, we are asked to reverse the application of

¹ Conference "Proceedings," p. 32.

² Quoted in the *LIBRARY JOURNAL*, March, 1903, v. 28, p. 117.

the well known injunction: "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."

In answer to the inquiry, where to place the emphasis, the authorities whom I have quoted would name as of pre-eminent importance, the new fiction; and from this position I beg leave to differ, radically.

2. What weight shall we give to the question of fiction or non-fiction?

As a matter of fact, the discussion of this question of "new books" seems inevitably to drift towards the discussion of new fiction. New fiction, we need to remember, is not the only fiction; and in my own library, if I were to name the order in which the needs seem most urgent in the various subdivisions of fiction, I should place them thus: First of all, the stories for the Children's Library, a supply appropriate to the immature age of these young readers, and in sufficient quantities—in quantities, indeed, which we are at all times obliged to be far behindhand with. Second, the standard fiction of all ages, the books with which Mr. Dana has shown that very few of our libraries are adequately supplied, on a sufficiently generous scale of duplicating. Lastly, the current fiction.

No one will undertake to question the extraordinary mass and volume of the current fiction of to-day. This point has been touched upon by several of those who have already discussed the subject; and it is only in the inferences which we draw from it that we are likely to differ from each other in any respect. Mr. Foss emphasized this point in his remarks at our last meeting—one of the most forcibly and eloquently presented of any of the various discussions. So also did Dr. Hosmer, in his masterly "President's address" at Niagara Falls last June. No one will hesitate to admit that to the future student of nineteenth and twentieth century literature—the student, for instance, who has to present a thesis on some literary subject, in the twenty-fifth century—the preservation somewhere of every one of these volumes, good, bad and indifferent, will be a much-appreciated boon. Present-day students of course find this the case with such of the "chap-books" of a former century as have come down to us. But certainly this is not recreational; and it is the recreational side of the subject which most of those considering it wish to emphasize.

We can perhaps best appreciate this point by observing the use which a very noteworthy collection of books, in a field somewhat analogous to this, receives—namely, the "Harris collection of American poetry," in the Brown University Library. To read this through, book after book, would be a most distasteful task to any real lover of poetry, yet the presence of these books, on so comprehensive a scale, "freak" poems and all, is most heartily appreciated by the special students who, in a cold-blooded, critical way, and by the use of something analogous to the "laboratory method," take them up for examination. But this is a very different thing from the enjoyment of the books, plainly intended in Mr. Foss's recent remarks on the subject.²

We may go a step further, and compare the purchase of books in any such field as that of fiction, or poetry, or essays, on the one hand, with that in such a field as natural science or industrial science. If a professor occupying a chair of electrical engineering should buy books on electricity for a series of years, his purchases would be in a constant state of flux. So rapidly does the science advance, and so rapidly does a treatise go out of date, that a volume can hardly stand on his shelves three years before it has to be sifted out, and replaced by a later one. In this respect, while we may not speak of electrical treatises as "ephemeral reading," we may say that certain electrical treatises have an ephemeral value. It is because the subject matter of these treatises deals with plain questions of fact, and becomes discredited when new facts are brought forward to take the place of the earlier statements.

It is needless to remark that, in the field of the literature of power, no such literary law is operating, and that the number of generations—and centuries—since the time of Shakespeare, does not lead us to shoulder him aside in favor of some playwright of to-day, as, for instance, Mr. Clyde Fitch. It is a disregard of this fundamental distinction which has led to such an argument as this, on the subject under discussion, that "the plea that current fiction is ephemeral cannot fairly operate against its purchase, unless you refuse for the same reasons to buy a book on

² L. J., February, 1904, p. 72.

the Doukhobors or any other passing madness or fanaticism."⁴

3. *What weight shall we give to the question of quality?*

I have just spoken above as if we were justified in raising this question, but, strange as it may seem, one's right to do this has been sharply denied. Mr. Foss, in the paper from which I have already quoted, remarks: "It isn't at all a question whether this or that novel is trash, this or that novel is mushy or worthless."⁵ In this view of the case, then, we consent to ascribe to the novel a pre-eminence and an exemption from the operation of ordinary rules, which we ascribe, so far as I know, to no other form of literature in the world. This is another instance where I shall have to differ radically and resolutely with Mr. Foss.

If now we inquire the reason for this sacrosanct character attaching to the current novel, it is apparently to be found in the claim that is made for it, that it, more than any other one thing, typifies "the spirit of the age." This is a position which is not likely to pass unchallenged. Quite as much might be said in favor of sociological discussions, as occupying that position of eminence. Perhaps indeed, almost as much might be said of "the spirit of commercialism" as best typifying "the spirit of the age." It is true that the question might arise as to whether this is an occasion for satisfaction, only to be ruled out however, as irrelevant, since, on the principle that "whatever is right," we are virtually told that the people "are going to read novels any way," and we must accept this as a finality. Much that is best in library work comes from not too hastily surrendering to an apparent finality. Mr. Foss's injunction in this connection is this: "Do not restrict at all your purchases of current fiction."⁶

4. *What weight shall we give to the question of a "recreational" purpose?*

In other words, may we not relax sometimes? This last is a question to which we can all very heartily say "Yes." The truth is that there are several different kinds of "best," to be included in making up an ideal public library; and one of them is as well entitled as the others, to be admitted to the

shelves. One can hardly imagine a greater difference, so far as conception, treatment, and point of view are concerned, than between Dr. Holmes's "Autocrat of the breakfast table" and Milton's "Lycidas"; between "Robinson Crusoe" and George Eliot's "The mill on the Floss"; between Dumas's "Count of Monte Cristo" and Shakespeare's "Merchant of Venice"; between Dante's "Divine comedy" and Eugene Field's "Trumpet and drum"; between Lowell's "Commemoration ode" and Stevenson's "A child's garden of verses." Each is in its way almost the best of its kind, and the "kinds," though varied, are all good. Moreover, not everything that is vital and excellent is of the intense or strenuous order. How delightful an experience it is to surrender one's self to an essayist with a light and delicate touch like Agnes Repplier; or to the charming papers by the author of "The gentle reader;" or to that still earlier master in this field of "light literature," *par excellence*, the author of "The essays of Elia." To "relax" under the influence of authors like these is, in itself, "a liberal education."

We find, however, that the plea for "relaxing" is sometimes not so much an argument for the less formal varieties of literature as it is for some form of reading matter which requires no thought whatever. It is true that a book may sometimes serve a useful purpose in providing a medium with which "fagged brains" may occupy themselves, without the effort of thinking. So indeed may a sermon, and the cases are perhaps not infrequent in which the mental health of a listener in church has been improved by the unconscious dulness of the clergyman. The argument is perhaps as cogent in the one case as in the other. But a not unnatural reaction against this view of the usefulness of a public library would appear to have made itself manifest. I have recently seen a somewhat pathetic protest from one reader, who has turned from the depressingly low level of much of the contemporary fiction, asking: "For Heaven's sake, are there not some souls that are not 'jaded'; and some brains that are not 'fagged'?" Judging from the mental capacity of the rank and file of those who use our libraries, I think that we can assure her that there are. Not only do readers occasionally resent the low estimate of their intellectual capacity which the flood of contemporary

⁴ LIBRARY JOURNAL, Feb., 1904, p. 73.

⁵ Ibid., p. 72.

⁶ Ibid., p. 73.

fiction sometimes seems to imply, but the booksellers themselves. Not long ago, a bookseller of my acquaintance, in active business, plaintively demanded of me, after looking over row on row of depressingly vapid new novels—"How long am I going to be obliged to handle this rot?" Is it any more in accordance with the eternal fitness of things that a librarian should handle it, than a bookseller?

Mr. Bostwick is inclined to believe that, as between the two views of the library's functions, the educational and the recreational, the latter is unduly neglected. If the plea were made that this had been the case at some time in the past, I think that we could readily agree with him, but it is more difficult to take the view that this is still the case. On the contrary, the tendency to emphasize the recreational, rather than the educational feature, not merely of the library but of various other institutions, seems to be having its innings just now, to an exceptional degree.

5. *What weight shall we give to the question of the reader's financial ability?*

In other words, are the librarians who do not approve of the fiction-purchasing policy above referred to, committing the error of adopting the undemocratic course of discriminating in favor of the "classes" against the "masses"? It would appear that this charge is sometimes made, and there is an amusing instance to be found—of all places in the world—in Mr. Oscar Fay Adams's volume, "Some famous American schools" (p. 340-41):

"There is a story told," says Mr. Adams, "of a lad of the people, who one day applied at the public library in a certain town for 'The adventures of Mike Mulligan, the masher,' but was informed by the somewhat supercilious attendant that there was no such work in the library.

"Well, then," returned the unabashed applicant, 'gimme "Roaring Ralph of the Rialto," or "The Gory Galoot of the Gaultees."

"We don't have such books here," said the librarian frostily.

"Wot's this here lib'ry fur?" began the indignant fiction seeker, and then, answering his own query, added with withering sarcasm, 'I know wot it's fur, I do; it's fur the rich, and the poor workin' boy don't git no chance at all.'"

Mr. Adams's story is a clever one, but it is not quite convincing. The experience and

observation of not a few librarians lead them to a different view of the matter. In my own library, for instance, it is my fortune to hear, from time to time, a question beginning with the familiar words, "Why have you not bought" this or bought that? The line of cleavage suggested by Mr. Adams's interesting little anecdote is by no means that represented in these inquiries. That is to say, the pathetic requests for an up-to-date volume on "Machine design," or "Hot-house management," or "Electrical engineering," or many another subject of serious and permanent concern, are quite as likely to come from the readers of little financial ability. I might say also that the requests for such current fiction as we are unable to afford are quite as likely to come from readers who are abundantly able to buy these books, and throw them away. If there be anything therefore in the argument in favor of "the democratization of reading"—and I believe that there is—it does not count, so far as our own library's experience goes, and that of others also, in favor of the fiction-purchasing policy above referred to. I know of few duties laid upon a public library more binding, than in regard to these readers who, "in straitened circumstances, but with honorable aims, are struggling up to honorable distinctions," to quote from the impressive language of the late George Ticknor, in his "Preliminary report" on the Boston Public Library, and who, in the language of the same report, "should be encouraged and helped to do it."

6. *What weight shall we give to the question of the library's financial ability?*

If there is any one present who has all the money to spend for books which he feels that he needs, I hope that he will make his presence known to us. It is certainly not a common condition. One of the results of the condition which is common is that each year we leave a greater or less number of books unbought that we would have wished—more or less strongly—to place on our shelves. In the ceaseless and scrupulously conscientious "winnowing" to which we are obliged to resort, ought any other result to be aimed at or approved, than "the survival of the fittest"? One would think not, and yet we are gravely warned, whatever we do, not to restrict our "purchases of current fiction."

It may help to clarify our ideas on this

subject if we ask this question: "What is a true conception of a public library?" One definition is as follows: "A public library is the public serving itself by means of a collection of books, brought together and administered with a view to meeting the various needs of the community." Like the public art museum, it receives funds for which a strict account must be rendered. Like the administrator of trust funds, it is turning its expenditures in directions which will yield solid and permanent results. Like the directors of a financial corporation, it is creating assets which are, or should be, of unquestioned value. The managers of a public art museum would not escape censure if they gradually filled up the museum with freak paintings and chromos, on the plea that the public wanted these, and these they must have. Yet we hear an argument similar to this in the case of the libraries. The administrator of trust funds would not escape censure if he placed his investments in the most flighty and questionable stocks in the stock market. And yet we are told that "the ephemeral," in current fiction, is not to be counted as an objection against the fiction-purchasing policy above referred to, because of the opportunity which it gives to "the exploratory function of the reader,"⁷ in running through the good, bad and indifferent; and we are also politely requested not to raise the question of "literary quality in a matter of popular literary recreation."⁸ The directors of a financial corporation would not escape censure if it were found that, after a series of years, they had perpetrated an ominously large amount of stock-watering. And it is to be borne in mind that this censure might not be immediate in every instance. In later years, indeed, our communities may reproach us for too weakly yielding to clamor. And yet we are told that, so far as libraries are concerned, "this question must be looked at in a broad view";⁹ and this innocent remark is immediately interpreted to mean that "it isn't a question at all whether this or that novel is trash," or "whether this or that novel is mushy or worthless." Of course the question under consideration does not at all cover the case of treatises in fields where the opin-

ion of the community is divided (as theology, politics, etc.), where of course all sides must be represented.

Perhaps the place where a library's financial inability is likely to pinch most sharply is where it feels the need of duplicating. The ideal condition would be found if in every instance where an exceptional demand develops, in the case of a deserving book, it were possible to order copy after copy, until the demand is satisfied. How often, in previous years, have we discussed this question, only to leave it unsolved; and, behold, in these later years, the Booklovers Library has arisen, not only to attack the problem, but to solve it successfully. As a financial proposition, it represents a scheme of expenditure which would be impossible to a public library, although the "duplicate pay collections" which have been successfully operated in various American libraries, represent a somewhat analogous principle. The public library, while not setting itself up as a rival of the Booklovers Library, and, indeed, cordially welcoming it as supplementing, in a certain sense, its own work, is still not relieved from the necessity of duplicating its books to a considerable extent. It does not, however, guarantee every reader a given book, as this other commercially organized institution can do. It is probable that we have much yet to learn in the question of laying the emphasis, in this matter of duplicating. The statistics collected by Mr. Dana, and presented in his Niagara Falls paper, showed that "librarians spend on Rosa Carey five times as much money both for books and distribution as on Hawthorne."¹⁰ I recall some of the hard experiences of our own library during the last few months, when we sadly needed to duplicate still further certain books on Russia and Japan—books which would have done much good if we could have supplied them then. I recall another instance, that of Gardner's "Ancient Athens," a book wanted urgently by a reader about to sail for Athens, but on account of our inability to duplicate, not supplied. Chidings we have received, and doubtless shall receive in future, from our importunate yet courteous and considerate readers who have hoped to get some volume of current fiction; but can these for a moment compare with the "reproaches"—justly

⁷ Niagara Falls Conference "Proceedings," p. 32.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ LIBRARY JOURNAL, Feb., 1904, p. 72.

¹⁰ Niagara Falls Conference "Proceedings," p. 37.

made, as I must believe—of those who have looked to us in vain for the supplying of these other needs? Not while quality is counted above quantity, nor while the educational function of a public library is counted above its recreational function. If only one of them can be supplied, we cannot hesitate in deciding which one. And this is the answer, let me here say, which I should have made if I had been present at the last meeting of this club, to the question of how we meet the consideration that the Booklovers Library is not for all readers of the public library, since its charging a fee will bar out some. In other words, the supplying of books on so lavish a scale is not a necessity but a luxury; and, in the process of elimination, due to financial limitations, it simply yields to the necessities.

7. What other motives should be allowed to govern?

I should have willingly left out this division of the matter, except that it seems to be called for by the phraseology of the subject, as printed on the program, namely: "Ought librarians to work for an increased circulation"? The motive of an increased circulation plainly is one which will naturally suggest a large use of fiction and a large use of new books. While an increased circulation is not a bad thing, I do not feel like regarding it as an end in itself; and I prefer to substitute the following, as a statement of the ideal aim to be kept in view, namely: "the placing of the right book in the hands of the right reader." In fact, I would go further, and substitute for this word, "motive," this other word, "duty"; and I would ask what are the duties which the librarian is bound to recognize in the administration of his library. So far as the expenditure of money is concerned, he owes a duty to the city government, which grants the annual appropriation, to the taxpayers of the city, or town, on whom the tax-levy is made, and also to the readers who are to use the books.

Has he any duty to the publishers of the books? One would think so to judge from the direct language used in some cases, and from the implication in the case of other utterances. I recall a particularly choice specimen of ill-considered argument—one might almost say brow-beating—published in a trade journal west of the Alleghenies,

and copied into the LIBRARY JOURNAL, no doubt as an "awful example."

"In some cases," in the purchases made by public libraries, the writer observes, apparently with much pain, "the percentage of recent books is remarkably small." He adds that in the case of one public library, the inability to replace certain out-of-print books was greatly bemoaned, and yet meanwhile, "reviewers' desks were piled high with" new books. His patience well nigh exhausted, apparently, he exclaims: "Is it possible that these people are hypercritical, or are they not posted?"¹¹ The other instances—those which convey the idea by implication—are chiefly connected with the all-pervasive modern phenomenon of "commercialism," which is almost as prevalent to-day in the realm of books as of any other merchandise. Twenty years ago, it would have jarred on one—and not merely on the few but on the many—to see almost precisely the same point of view represented, almost precisely the same methods employed, and almost precisely the same low level of intelligence assumed on the part of the innocent customer, in pushing the sale, let us say, of somebody's liver pills, and of pushing the sale of "the last new novel." Who does not recall the successive circulars with which the publishers of this or that "most popular book of the day" made a dead set at the public libraries, to which, it would appear, they were simply determined to sell these copies? One librarian, finding it a little difficult to retain his self-respect in being thus made the mark of these flamboyant circulars, interviewed several booksellers, to inquire how this book was selling—at the height of its fame. In each instance the reply was that the public could hardly be induced to touch it. But with the book-publisher's conception of the place and duty of the public libraries to which I have just referred, how convenient a scapegoat they would have proved, to carry off the unsold copies.

"The voice of the people is the voice of God," we are told; and we are told also that "in the libraries which the people pay for they should have what they want." Still, it is well to be cautious in deciding whether the voice is really that of the people, or of some commercial interest. Surely nothing

¹¹ Quoted in the LIBRARY JOURNAL, v. 28, p. 117.

would be easier, and nothing would be less demanding in its draughts upon the librarian's mental powers, than to purchase exactly what the publishers tell him to purchase, and forbear to discriminate. Even our janitors and cleaners could do that. In such a case as the one just cited, there is little doubt that the continued iteration of the merits of a worthless book, in the advertisements spread before the public everywhere, convinced a large number of people that this was indeed the one book which no family should be without. This is a peculiar trait in human nature, on which for years the promoters of patent medicines have, with entire security and confidence, based their campaigns against the public—and now, alas, the promoters of books.

When a librarian is able to take counsel of his judgment, and of the needs of his institution, and is influenced neither by the vociferations of publishers nor by the attractiveness of circulation totals, he can undoubtedly turn his attention to various internal questions of administration to much better advantage; he can make the work of his library to a large extent intensive as well as extensive; and he can in general do something towards making real the admirable ideal embodied in that early motto, familiar to most of the members of the American Library Association—"The best reading, for the greatest number, at the lowest cost."

There is a temptation, possibly, to remind you that just at present, under the net price system, we are by no means getting "at the lowest cost" some of these "best sellers of the year" of which we have been speaking. However, I decline to enter on the discussion of more than one "burning question" at a time, and I therefore pass it by.

8. *Ought the public library to abdicate its position of intellectual influence in the community?*

One can but feel surprise at the appearance of this thoroughly new doctrine—for new it surely is—that it is an impertinence for the librarian to take counsel of his judgment, his experience, or his knowledge of the subject, in choosing the purchases for the library, or, indeed, of any other considerations than the fact in regard to a given policy of purchasing, that "the people want it," and therefore the people must have it. In other words, "to

have one's ear to the ground" is the ideally wise course. What the source of this suggestion is, it would be difficult to say, but it is not at all improbable that its origin may be traced to the publishers. Here, for instance, is a characteristic utterance, in one of the publishers' official journals: "In some cases," it remarks (speaking of the purchases of public libraries), "the percentage of recent books is remarkably small." "This shows," remarks the critic, with becoming severity, "a peculiar conservatism that appears almost like a censorship."¹³

Whatever the source, this doctrine of a "majority vote" to settle literary values would seem to have a good foothold, at present. It does not seem, however, to have gained very much of a foothold at present at the Boston Public Library. If it had, we might be prepared to find a progressive policy, from year to year, somewhat like the following: First year: Decided, from representations made to the trustees, that the library is buying too much standard literature, and that for the coming year purchases will be confined to new books. Second year: Decided, by canvass in the newspapers, that there is more of a demand for periodicals than for books, and that for the coming year only periodicals shall be bought and no books. Third year: Decided, by a "voting contest" in the newspapers, that newspapers be substituted for both magazines and books, for the coming year. This indeed only fell short of full execution, from a serious disagreement among the newspapers, as to which one should have the cream of the contract.

Seriously, however, in a period when expert knowledge is meeting with more and more complete recognition, in other fields than library work, it is a little melancholy to see a disposition on the part of some librarians to abdicate the position of experts, as applied to their own profession.

Years ago, the barber-surgeon was not only a humble, but an illiterate and an unskilful member of society. Generation by generation, the surgeon has advanced in knowledge of his art, in skill as a practitioner, and in tireless exploration of all phases of his subject, until now he commands not only the confidence but the respectful admiration of the community, from his expert knowledge.

¹³ LIBRARY JOURNAL, v. 28, p. 117.

Years ago, the predecessor of the present-day engineer filled a comparatively unimportant position in the community. In a bungling way he put together a few bridges, and he occasionally constructed what he called "a machine"—a machine, however, which was seldom able to work. Generation by generation, this obscure member of society has risen to his opportunities, with the gradually expanding field for skilful work, until now the engineer occupies an exceptionally commanding position, as a director of much of the most difficult work in the life of modern society, in short, as an expert.

Years ago the librarian was a man who counted for very little in the life of the community. He was frequently, if not usually, janitor and man-of-all-work, as well as librarian. Usually, indeed, his qualifications for taking care of the building were quite as complete as for taking care of the reading. Step by step, through a period of years which is almost within the memory of some who are present to-day, the keeper of books has risen to the occasion when it has presented itself; he has advanced in knowledge of his subject, in grasp upon the details of a gradually expanding mass of detailed work, and in ability to meet new developments effectively; he has allied the work of his own institution to that of the schools, the great industries, and even the arts of the community; and, in the process of time—entirely outside of his own agency—the outside world has come to characterize his work as "educational," and his occupation as one of the professions. In short, the librarian, like the surgeon and the engineer, has been recognized as an expert.

In this situation, is it the part of wisdom weakly to shrink back, and, when the community turns to us for guidance or assistance, to reply: "Please don't ask us. Take a majority vote"?

Mr. President, I protest. I ask for a sober and comprehensive review of the situation, in order to consider whither certain tendencies are leading us.

Let me not be misunderstood on one point. Let it be granted, for the sake of argument, that this is a question on which the present audience is divided. It is not for a moment to be supposed that in the public libraries represented by those who hold one of these

views, the extreme application of these principles is to be found in operation at present, and that the opposite is the case in the libraries represented by the other side. Not at all. We shall find as complete, hearty, and helpful systems of reference work in the library of our esteemed secretary, Mr. Foss, or in the library of which Dr. Hosmer was lately in charge, as in any one of the libraries of those who do not hold with them on these points. The question is, how long we shall find them there. The truth is that usage and practice are the last to yield to modification—in any field. It is first our ideals that change. Later, tendencies are seen to be changing. Later still, and after all these others, the actual usage changes.

It is at present only the first stage that we have to deal with, the change of ideals, but here the change is sufficiently marked, if we make comparison with ten years ago. Already it is proposed that in an important branch of purchases, choice, discrimination, judgment, and expert knowledge should be eliminated, or at least effaced. The librarian should become a mechanical medium for the transferring of books to readers, or rather, a tube through which the books can be shoved, to quote from an amusing essayist; and, in the choice of purchases as well as in the actual "shoving," "there need be no discrimination" (to quote from Dr. Hosmer's paraphrase of Mr. Lee)—"a novel of Bertha Clay and a dialogue of Plato are landed with entire impartiality."¹⁸

I have spoken of the fact that we still have admirable libraries conducted by these eminent librarians whom I have mentioned, but if these tendencies continue, how long shall we be sure of having them? Few things are more certain than the doctrine of the deterioration of unused functions, whether in the physical world, or in the mental or social world. If the modern library no longer represents a need for a man who shall develop in readers the conscious selection of the best (an anti-Philistine doctrine which seems to be frowned upon), or who shall help the reader to advance from one stage of literature to another, then the race of librarians of which Dr. Winsor, Mr. Cutter, Dr. Poole and Dr. Hosmer himself were typical representatives (to include none who are still in

¹⁸ Niagara Falls Conference "Proceedings," p. 7.

active library work), will gradually die out. If the modern library is to be nothing but an agency for registering readers' preferences in current fiction and similar fields, there is no reason why it need exist as a separate institution. Just as in some of the smaller towns, the library is installed in a corner of the country grocery, so even in the larger cities, it might be installed in a corner of a large department store, and placed in charge not indeed of the janitor, but of some fairly capable department employee, brisk and bustling, and, above all, not burdened with too much knowledge of the insides of books. In fact, he may have to help in the "neck-wear" department.

Let me not be misunderstood on one other point, however. Whatever value there has been in the work of the librarian in making his library an uplifting force in the community has been due to the avoidance of an officious or supercilious spirit. Do these conditions still continue, in general, throughout the libraries of the country? One might suppose, from some of the language of Dr. Hosmer's address, from some of the language of Mr. Lee's volume, from some of the language of Mr. Adams's clever story, and from some of the language of other writers, that there had been a change in this respect. If so, it is a tendency to be most gravely deplored. I do not hesitate to say that if I were a member of the great reading public, I would rather not be benefited by any such agency as a library, than to be benefited by it in this way, by a smug, tactless, bumptious librarian proffering his assistance in an arrogant manner. And we need to give tireless attention to this phase of the subject, if we have at heart the maintenance of the conditions existing at present.

At the same time, let me point out the fact that there is not the slightest necessary connection between the two things—the assistance to readers, and the over-officious attitude. I am inclined to think that in the libraries with which the most of us are connected, we are too busy in answering the

questions brought to us by our constituents, unsought by us, to cultivate an attitude of officiousness. It is the atmosphere of our libraries, helpful and sympathetic, which has drawn these readers, and not any effort on our part.

Some time ago, Mr. Bostwick, of the New York Public Library, in a very admirable address, expressed the wish that the libraries of the country might develop some one predominant trait. Let me suggest for our consideration this one, of helpfulness, and let us all do whatever lies in our power to make this ideal a reality.

Let me say then, in conclusion, that, in deciding where to place the emphasis, in library purchases, newness can hardly be considered to have an exclusive claim, nor can we concentrate it upon the even more limited field of "new fiction." As between the "educational" and "recreational" functions of a public library, we shall still feel like emphasizing the former (while giving the latter its just due); and we are not ready yet, to sink the question of quality out of sight. We shall do well to study unceasingly the interests, tastes, and needs of all portions of our constituency, including those of little financial ability; and, in attempting to respond to those needs, and at the same time, to recognize the financial limitations of our own libraries, we shall need to take counsel of our experience, judgment, and special knowledge, as well as of the vociferous claims made in favor of some "book of a day." We are to remember that while a high circulation is a good thing, it is not an end in itself, and that the only ideal motives are those concerned with helpfulness. By seeing that the right reader secures the right book, through the agency of our library, we shall attain a sufficient success. Above all, we shall do well to avoid the point of view of officious, unsympathetic, unintelligent, smug, and self-satisfied management, and, by emphasizing the quality of helpfulness, not only in the purchases but throughout all departments of the library's work, see that we make that the one predominant feature of the library.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS IN AMERICAN LIBRARIES: THE GARRETT COLLECTIONS OF ARABIC MANUSCRIPTS AT PRINCETON UNIVERSITY LIBRARY.

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WITHIN recent years three extensive collections of Arabic manuscripts have been brought to this country: one was given to Yale University Library, the other two are at present deposited in Princeton University Library. These two collections* were secured from the well-known Oriental publishing house of E. J. Brill at Leiden, Holland. A number of the present manuscripts were collected by the agents of this firm, but the vast majority of them formed originally the library of a Mohammedan scholar at Me-dinah and were gained for Europe through the famous Arabic scholar Count Landberg. In 1900 Messrs. J. W. and Robert Garrett, of Baltimore, purchased the first collection (I), consisting of 1171 Arabic and 23 Turkish manuscripts, and deposited it in the library of their alma mater. Another collection (II), acquired by Mr. Robert Garrett, arrived in Princeton only a few weeks ago. The languages and scripts represented in the second collection are more numerous than those of the first, but here again the Arabic manuscripts outnumber the others considerably. In detail, there are 384 Arabic, eight Syriac and Karshuni, 13 Turkish, 64 Persian, two Armenian, nine Malay, nine Javanese, one in an Indian dialect, and finally a Latin translation of the Koran written as it seems in the beginning of the 17th century.

It is hoped that the arrival of all this new material in America will mark the beginning of a more extensive study of the civilization, the literature and the language of the Mohammedan peoples. This study is necessary for two reasons, a practical and a theoretical one. The first concerns the relation of Christianity and Christian nations to Islam and Mohammedan peoples. In order to maintain Christian authority over Islam it is necessary to have a thorough understanding of the Mohammedans themselves, their history, their religion and their literature. The other rea-

son is given by general scientific considerations. Professor Ahlwardt, of Greifswald, who has studied Arabic literature with indefatigable zeal for more than fifty years, says in the preface to the tenth volume of his life work, the "Catalogue of the Arabic manuscripts in the Royal Library at Berlin:" "The Arabs have by unequalled deeds stirred and astounded the world for centuries, they have founded a religion for which even nowadays millions of people would sacrifice their lives with enthusiasm, a religion which undoubtedly has its blessings for the countries of the East, and they have produced higher works of religious, ethical and scientific character than any other mediæval people. They were for almost half a millennium the carriers of civilization, the cultivators of science. . . . He who knows Arabic literature in its manifold variety . . . will admit that the Arabs have been of the highest importance for the development and the progress of mankind." Professor Ahlwardt concludes this preface with the words: "If my book should contribute to foster this knowledge and to encourage a profound study of Arabic literature, particularly of Arabic poetry, I should regard such a result as the most valuable gain of my work, for which even the sacrifice of a whole life would not have been too high."

All the different branches of Arabic literature are well illustrated by the two Garrett collections. It is of course impossible in a paper of this character to give an adequate idea of the contents of such extensive collections. Moreover I have only just begun to make a list of the second collection,† whereas of the first collection a list was published by the Dutch scholar M. Th. Houtsma about fourteen years ago. A descriptive catalog of both will be published in time, but it will take a number of years before it can be completed. Here, therefore, I can only call at-

* In the following pages the collections will be designated respectively as I. and II.

† It is hoped to publish this list in the course of the present year.

tention to some of the more important manuscripts of the Garrett collections.

A few words may first be said about the age and the script of these manuscripts. Examples of all the various kinds of Arabic script of many different centuries are to be found here. Among the earliest there is a fragment of the Koran written in Kufic on parchment (I, 592). This fragment probably dates from the tenth century A.D. From the eleventh century onward there are dated manuscripts of almost every century, although those ranging from 1100 to 1500 are naturally not quite so numerous as those written from 1500 to 1870. Among the former we may mention especially two books which once belonged to famous Oriental rulers. One, a treatise on astrology (I, 501), belonged to the library of the Arab Saladdin; the other, luxuriously written partly in gold, was a present to the Turkish Sultan Bayezid II, who reigned from 1481-1502; he was the son of Mohammed II, the Great, and his reign is remarkable for several reasons; not only did he extend the boundaries of his empire and oblige the Venetians to ask for peace, but also he was actively interested in the promotion of science.

The variety of countries, from which the different manuscripts came, and consequently the number of the various types of script is very considerable. The Arabic script in Spain and Morocco, the so-called *maghrebi* or "western" writing, had an independent development, and is more closely related to the old Kufic writing than the Arabic used in Egypt, Arabia and Syria; from the latter it differs not only in its general make-up, preferring, as a rule, angular forms, but also by the peculiar forms of certain letters. Several ancient manuscripts—one of them on parchment—and a few modern ones are contained in the Garrett collections. They are all very well written, one of them is even a gem of calligraphy. Among them is a copy of Avicenna's treatise on medicine with the commentary of Averroes (I, 562), a copy which has had a curious history. It was written in the year 1480 A.D. Not very long afterwards it must have passed into the hands of the Christian Spaniards, who perhaps took it with other spoil from the Mohammedans when the latter were finally driven out from this part of Europe. There are two inter-

esting notes in Spanish at the end of this book. One says: "We Don Martin de Ayala by the grace of God Archbishop of Valencia give permission for the present that Miguel the physician of . . . may take and read and use this present book, inasmuch as we are certain that it is a medical book." The other note reads: "I, Hieronymus de Mur, Priest of the Company of Jesus, have seen the present book of Avicenna by order of the *Soc. licenciado* Gregorio Miranda, the apostolical inquisitor, and Ynez the commissary of the new converts in the kingdom of Valencia, and it is [a] good [book.]" In the text there are a number of glosses in Spanish and in Latin, perhaps made by Doctor Miguel. Most of the Arabic manuscripts, however, were written in Egypt, Syria, and Arabia, in Mekka and Medinah as well as in Southern Arabia. But besides these there are Arabic manuscripts which were written by Turks in Asia Minor and in European Turkey, among the latter an absolutely unique dictionary of the Arabic language, of which I shall speak later (II, 14); furthermore we meet with many examples of *ta'liq* script, i.e., the Arabic writing as used especially by the Persians. Finally there are even manuscripts written in India and in the Malay archipelago. We find, for instance, a complete Koran (II, 2) probably written in Sumatra or Java, on a very curious paper, the character of which I have not been able to determine; this manuscript was taken by a Dutch expedition in 1846. At the end of this Koran there is a prayer in Malay; Malay glosses and notes are also to be found in a copy of the famous "Legend of the Prophets," by al-Kisâ'i (II, 4).

Illuminated and illustrated manuscripts are quite rare among those in Arabic script. Nevertheless there are some very fine specimens of them in Princeton. Among others there is a beautifully written and illuminated copy of the renowned poem called *al-Burda*, "The Mantle," by al-Bûsîri (I, 43). There are two equally famous Arabic poems that go by this name, one composed at the time of Mohammed, the other in the middle of the thirteenth century. The name originated in the following way: Ka'b ibn Zuhair was a Beduin poet at the time when Islam spread throughout Arabia; his tribe and even his own brother became Mohammedans, and he

derided them in his verses. When the prophet heard this, he condemned Ka'b to death. Then the latter went to Mohammed, recited a poem in his praise, and the prophet was so much pleased with it that he took off his mantle and gave it to the poet. In the thirteenth century al-Būsiri, famous as a panegyrist of Mohammed, composed a poem in imitation of the first *burda*; his poem became even better known and more read than its prototype.

Among the illustrated manuscripts we must notice a treatise on botany and a copy of the Arabic Euclid. The former (I, 583) contains a great number of carefully drawn and painted pictures of plants; the manuscript is apparently old, but its title and author have not been determined as yet, since the beginning and the end are missing. The copy of the Arabic Euclid (II, 6), which contains a great many geometrical figures, is one of the oldest copies known. The Elements of Euclid were edited by the Arabic scholar at-Tūsī in 1248 A.D., and the present copy is dated 1303 A.D., i.e., only 55 years after the completion of the book.

In connection with these books I should also mention three magnificently illuminated copies of the Koran, recently acquired by Mr. Garrett, and at present in Princeton University Library; these three manuscripts, however, do not form part of the two collections mentioned above. The first of them is a Koran in Kufic script of the ninth or tenth century A.D.; it is written on vellum, and every letter of the whole manuscript is in gold, while the vowel-points are in red and blue, and the illuminations in gold, green and red. The manuscript measures $14 \times 10\frac{1}{2}$ inches and is almost entirely complete, only two or three leaves being lost. This is one of the rarest and most perfect manuscripts known in any library. The other two Korans are mediæval, and are done by the best Persian artists. One measures 19×12 inches, the other $15\frac{1}{2} \times 10\frac{1}{2}$ inches. It is difficult to decide which contains the more exquisite and elaborate work in its illuminations. The first four pages of both are covered with the most artistic designs, and only a very small space in the center of the pages contains writing; these pages are of the same general character as the page of a Berlin manuscript reproduced in A. Müller's "Geschichte des

Islams," vol. 1, between pp. 402 and 403. Again at the ends of both books there are a number of very profusely illuminated pages; the greater number of pages are written very carefully, evenly and beautifully, with elaborate headlines in gold and other colors at the beginning of each sura, and with artistic borders. Manuscripts like these are extremely rare and very seldom to be found even in the large European libraries.

Returning to the two collections under discussion, it is of course natural that most of the manuscripts are later copies of the original works. But at the same time there are quite a number of autographs among them. Often these autographs are not so well written as the later copies, and it seems that some of the Arabic scholars and poets indulged in bad handwriting. There is, however, one notable exception, viz., the autograph of an Arabic lady (I, 64): her poems are very neatly and correctly written. This poetess, whose name was 'A'isha bint Yūsuf, lived in the first half of the sixteenth century in Egypt and composed poems in praise of the prophet. Her manuscript, which was written in 921 A.H. (1515 A.D.) contains six quite extensive poems. To the first of these the author herself added a commentary.

Some of the copied manuscripts were written not very long after the completion of the works which they represent. Thus, for instance, a copy of the popular poems of an Egyptian writer of the fifteenth century, 'Alī ibn Sūdūn (II, 9), was written only nine years after the author's death. And again a manuscript (I, 16) dated 514 A.H. or 1120 A.D. gives the works of the Arabic poet Ibn Kushājim who died about 970 A.D. This poet was the grandson of a man from India; only a few copies of his "diwān" are known.

As has been noted, every one of the many branches of Arabic literature are represented in the Garrett collections, some very fully, others not quite so well. For instance, among the poetical books we do not find such treasures as there are in the Landberg collection at Yale. Nevertheless in this department also we have a few rare manuscripts, and this loss is made up for by the manuscripts representing the specifically Mohammedan sciences, among which there are a number of very rare and valuable books.

Arabic literature, like almost all great literatures of the world, is a combination of native and foreign elements. Arabic poetry is a native growth of the Arabian soil and has, with a few notable exceptions, always kept its national garment; it was not capable of going beyond its narrow national boundaries and, therefore, never influenced other literatures to any considerable extent. Arabic prose tales and romances, however, are more cosmopolitan in their origin as well as in the influence which they exercised on other nations; here the brilliant natural ability of the Arabs for prose fiction took its material from all over the East. Besides the belles-lettres we have a vast scientific literature. Here again we distinguish between native and foreign elements, although even the truly Mohammedan science, Arabic in its origin, was soon taken up and developed by foreigners who had accepted the faith of Islam. It is natural that Mohammedan theology and jurisprudence — which are inseparable, as Mohammedan law is religious law — did not influence the rest of the world very much. But, on the other hand, Arabic philosophy, astronomy, mathematics and other exact sciences, medicine and perhaps even philology have been the connecting link between classical and modern times for all Europe. Here the foreign influence was the strongest; in fact, it is very doubtful whether the Arabs could ever have produced a scientific literature of a similar character spontaneously and by themselves. But the services which the Arabs have rendered to the European nations by their faithful study, transmission and development of the science of antiquity, can scarcely be overestimated. We are only too apt to disparage a civilization which has been superseded by a higher and more vigorous one, especially if we see the decay of the former, as in the case of the Mohammedans. But it would be ungrateful, indeed, if we did not acknowledge the debt we owe to them. Finally, there is a third branch of literature in which the Arabs have been both receivers and givers, but which has not contributed much toward the advancement of science, except perhaps by causing the desire to get rid of it — I mean the occult sciences. Magical literature of antiquity, i.e., Babylonia, Egypt, Greece and Rome, and of mediæval Europe has been carefully studied, but that of the

Arabs and Abyssinians is almost entirely untouched, in spite of its rich store of material. Of course, these weird aberrations of the human mind are in themselves not attractive, but we must not neglect them if we intend to reach a thorough understanding of the growth of the civilization of mankind.

1. *Poetry.* The Arabs of the desert, poor and uneducated as they are, have produced a very extensive poetic literature. They are born poets, more so in ancient times, however, than nowadays. Their poems, often in very complicated metres and rhymes, were much recited or perhaps sung, and were received with enthusiasm by large audiences; many of them have been handed down for several centuries by oral tradition. Arabic poetry is almost altogether lyric, the Arabs have no national epic. The beginnings of epic poetry may be found in the dirges, in which the deeds of the deceased heroes are lauded, or in the poems recited before a battle, in which their own tribe is praised and the enemy cursed, or finally in the panegyrics addressed to princes and rulers. But these beginnings have never been developed. In all Arabic poetry the personal, subjective element, the characteristic of lyric poetry, prevails very strongly. If the poet sings of the beauty of women, he speaks of the woman whom he loves; if he describes nature, it is the nature that surrounded him when he set forth to perform his exploits; if he describes horses or camels, they are his property, or if it is game, it is the game that he has hunted. The realistic description of nature, of the life of the desert, its fauna and flora, is perhaps the strongest point in Arabic poetry. Yet, these descriptions are often so detailed that to us they become trivial and tedious. It is difficult to put oneself into the attitude that an Arab takes toward the endless descriptions of horses, camels, etc., but it seems to me that if we suppose that the place of painting and sculpture is here taken by poetry we may more readily understand the psychology of this desert poetry.

Of these ancient poems of the desert there is a very rare collection among the Garrett manuscripts, the *diwân mukhtârât shu'arâ' al-'arab* "collection of selected pieces from the Arabic poets" (I, 9). Only a few copies of this *diwân* are known; the present is an extremely careful transcript of a very ancient

original in the Khedivial library at Cairo. We may include here also the poems of the ancient Beduin poetess al-Khansā (I, 7); copies of her *diwān* are very scarce, and the present is one of the few known to be extant. Another rare manuscript is the *diwān* of *Ibn Joraij ar-Rūmī* (I, 14), an Arabic poet of Greek origin* who lived in the ninth century A.D. His poems are mostly panegyrics and satires, and he met his death on account of the latter. The *diwāns* of *Ibn Kushājīm* and of *‘Alī ibn Sūdūn* have been mentioned already. Of unusual importance is a copy of the *diwān* of *Alī ibn al-Muqarrab* (I, 28) who lived near the Persian gulf about 1200 A.D. His ancestors had fought in the war against the Carmathians, an important and powerful sect who for some time menaced the caliphate. The deeds of his ancestors are praised by this poet, and the present copy, presenting a very correct text of these poems and containing a reliable commentary, furnishes new and valuable historical information. There are finally a number of poems dating from the last four centuries. A very curious specimen of them is a poem celebrating the victory of the English at Abukir in 1801 (I, 97).

2. *Belles-lettres*. A special class among the Arabic belles-lettres is the so-called *adab* literature or "literature of fine education." This consists often of anthologies of prose and poetry, usually grouped around a special topic, but without following one system consistently. Some rare and valuable manuscripts of this kind are found in the Garrett collections also. But of higher importance, as it seems to me, are two complete Arabic romances, which are very little known. One of them is the so-called *sīrat ‘Antar* (II, 72), contained in six voluminous manuscripts, the largest of which contains over 1,400 pages; the other is the *sīrat al-Malik az-Zāhir* (II, 73) complete in 25 volumes. Both of them might be called Arabic national epics in prose. With the Arabs the place of the epic is taken by what we may call "national romances"; this is not without parallel in the history of literature, for also with the ancient Persians and Celts the original epic may be said to be in prose. The first of the two romances here extant deals with the ancient

Arabs. ‘Antar is represented as a strong hero, who leads tribe after tribe into battle, delivers kings from their enemies and performs the most remarkable deeds. The life of the Arabic tribes and heroes about the time of Mohammed is here well described, historical and legendary traditions are intertwined, but the whole is composed on a broad and artistic plan. The hero himself is known to us in history, he was one of the old Arabian poets and knights of the sixth century A.D., and his poetry even has come down to us. The other romance takes us into much later times. Al-Malik az-Zāhir Baibars was a Mamluk Sultan of Egypt who reigned from 1260 to 1277; his reign was a very active one, it was distinguished by warfare, but also by an extensive building activity. About his person legends grew up, and finally he became the hero of a long romance. History is treated in these romances in a similar way in the Nibelungenlied. Literary criticism has scarcely concerned itself with these romances as yet, and we do not know when they received their final form or exactly what historical facts lie back of all these narratives. It seems as if the romance of ‘Antar received the form in which we know it about the time of the Crusades, but that of Zāhir can of course scarcely be earlier than the fifteenth or sixteenth century, for some time must have elapsed between its composition and the life of its hero.

3. *Theology*. Most of the famous commentaries on the Koran are represented in one or more copies; for instance, that of *al-Baidāwī* is extant in three complete copies and one fragment (I, 651-654). But there are many others, some of which do not exist in any other collection; the largest of all is that by *al-Khatīb ash-Sharbinī* (II, 71), which consists of five volumes averaging 1000 pages each. We should take special note of two ancient Shiite commentaries (I, 642, 647) which are extremely rare. Books of the ancient Shiites are very scarce, and their exegesis of the Koran, although of high importance for the history of Islam, is very little known. There are a large number of collections of traditions, books on the science of tradition, many of which are autographs; furthermore some very rare books on Mohammedan religious law, on the sects, polemical works, etc.

* Joraij = Γεώργιος.

4. *History and biography.* Among the historical works there are three unique volumes; by themselves they are only fragments of larger works, but their importance lies in the fact that they fill lacunae in manuscripts of other libraries. Two of them (I, 175) are the sixth and the seventh volumes of a famous history of the world by *Ibn Kathir*, a Mohammedan scholar at Damascus in the fourteenth century. No complete copy of his work is known; the most nearly complete is a manuscript at Vienna, of which volumes III, VI and VIII are missing. A part of these lacunae is covered by the present manuscript. The other fragment (I, 177) is the sixth volume of a voluminous history of Egypt by *Ibn Taghribardi*. Strangely enough the third and fourth volumes of the very same copy are to be found in the Bibliothèque Nationale at Paris. These facts are interesting as illustrative of the fates of books.

5. *Philology.* Most of the famous grammars and their commentaries are extant; besides these there are many small lexicographical works, Arabic-Persian and Arabic-Turkish glossaries, etc. Of high value, however, are two dictionaries of the Arabic language, of which there are the only copies in Princeton. The first (I, 283) was compiled by the Arabic scholar *al-Qurtubi*, who lived in the thirteenth century A.D., the other called *Râmûz al-lughâ* (II, 14), i.e., "Ocean of the language" was composed by *Muhammad ibn Hasan Husâm ad-Dîn*, who lived in European Turkey in the second half of the fifteenth century. The present copy was made 75 years after the death of the author.

6. *Other sciences.* It may briefly be stated that there are books on cosmography and travels, metrics, rhetoric, dialectic, philosophy, encyclopedia of sciences, astronomy, mathematics, medicine and natural history.

7. *Occult literature.* The collection contains a number of books on divination and magics; some of these treat of the sand-magics, which are very popular among Eastern peoples. One very curious manuscript (I, 550) pretends to teach by means of circles and tables how to guess the thoughts of other people. There are, of course, also several works on astrology, the mother of astronomy; among them the work above mentioned, which belonged to Saladdin.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND THE SALE OF BOOKS.

At a meeting of the Booksellers' League, of New York City, on March 9, 1904, the question "Do public libraries help or hinder the sale of books?" was considered. Among the speakers, Mr. George Watson Cole and Mr. Arthur E. Bostwick, brought out the point of view of librarians and presented the argument for the public library as an aid in the sale of books.

Mr. Cole presented two main points, first that libraries are of themselves not only great but enormously great buyers of books; and, second, that libraries by cultivating and fostering the reading habit encourage the sale of books. "It is upon this point that I fear there is much misunderstanding. It requires little argument to prove that no one, who has become a habitual reader, is content to read only such books as can be procured at the public library, provided he has the means to buy them. It is not now a question of costly works of reference, such as sets of periodicals, cyclopædias, sumptuous works upon art, or other books of reference in long sets of many volumes; these it is generally conceded must be placed in libraries for the use of their patrons; it being one of the duties which the public owes to the citizen to provide him with those means of culture which he is unable to provide for himself. There exists among librarians an impression, shared, I believe, by many booksellers, that many books are purchased by the patrons of libraries from their having first seen and handled them in the library.

"Publishers and booksellers have failed to sufficiently appreciate the great value of the public library as an advertising medium. It is the reading public far more than newspaper criticisms or advertisements that determines the popularity of a book. The question put by enthusiastic readers to their acquaintances does more to advertise and sell a book than any amount of advertising or any number of book notices. Publishers would no doubt find it more to their interest to send free copies to the libraries than, as now, to send out press copies."

Mr. Cole read the following expressions of opinion sent to him by several librarians to whom the question of the evening had been submitted:

Mr. John Thomson, librarian of the Free Library of Philadelphia: "I doubt if it is possible to dispute the fact that public libraries help the sale of books, and this in two ways—enormous numbers of copies are sold to libraries which otherwise would not be purchased at all, and many persons, getting a book from a library, wish to add it to their own libraries and so become purchasers."

Dr. Bernard C. Steiner, librarian of the Enoch Pratt Free Library of Baltimore: "I

have always believed that public libraries made it possible to publish many books of limited sale, which class includes the most important informational works. I have published a 'History of Guilford' [Conn.], of which about one-fourth of the copies went to libraries. Without that certainty I should not have dared the venture."

Mr. Frank P. Hill, librarian of the Brooklyn Public Library: "My experience of 20 years leads me to believe that libraries are a help rather than a hindrance to the sale of books, as they draw the attention of the public to new books, and reach people who do not see advertisements in papers. Patrons often buy books from having first seen them in the libraries. These are mostly scientific books and books on literature."

Mr. William H. Brett, librarian of the Cleveland Public Library: "My own observation leads me to the impression that they [public libraries] promote the sale of books; indirectly, by increasing the interest in them, and directly by the fact that, in my observation, books are sometimes purchased from having been seen on the shelves of the library, and these purchases are more likely to be selected from classes other than fiction."

Mr. Henry M. Utley, librarian of the Detroit Public Library: "People often consult me on the question of the best book of a certain character to buy, or come to the library to themselves examine such a book. Therefore it might be said the fact that a certain book is in the library helps the sale of it. I have often heard the late John Macfarlane, our most successful bookseller, say that the public library helped him sell books and that he would rather have a book in the library than not. I should suppose that this applies mainly to books other than fiction."

Mr. Frederick M. Crunden, librarian of the St. Louis Public Library: "I am quite sure that public libraries greatly help the sale of books. They bring into the class of book-buyers thousands of people who would otherwise not have thought of buying books and would not appreciate good books. As the library is a great educator of readers, it follows necessarily that it must increase the number of bookbuyers. Bookbuyers come chiefly from those who have learned to enjoy reading, and this number the library is constantly increasing. Yes, I think many persons buy books after having first seen them in the library. I know persons who, hearing of a book, come to the library first and take a look at it or take it home, and then, if they are pleased with it, buy it. This, I think, applies particularly to books of a substantial character."

Mr. Samuel S. Green, librarian of the Worcester Free Public Library: "I am sure that persons often buy solid books in which they have become interested in the use of a public library. They buy them for their own use, and purchase books of all kinds which they

have read and like as presents to friends. . . . So far as public libraries are concerned, I am confident that they lead, on the whole, to a considerable increase in the sales of book-sellers."

Mr. Hiller C. Wellman, librarian of the City Library of Springfield, Mass.: "My confident opinion, although of course an opinion merely, is that libraries very materially increase the sale of books. For fiction of the day, libraries cannot begin to meet the demand, and I have no doubt that many individuals purchase the novels which they see listed in the library bulletins, and hear talked about by library readers, but which they fail to obtain readily at the library itself. But I think a far larger number of works of non-fiction are purchased by persons who have examined the books at the library. This is especially true at Christmas time, when collections of books suitable for Christmas gifts are examined by large numbers of prospective purchasers. But the greatest increase in the sale of books, in my judgment, does not come directly from examination of books at the library, but from the general interest in books which is aroused and maintained by the library throughout the whole community, and which without doubt leads to a general desire not only to read books but to own them as well."

Mr. Edwin H. Anderson, librarian of the Carnegie Library, Pittsburgh: "I think there is no question that public libraries help the sale of books. The largest local bookseller here testified two or three years ago in an interview in a local newspaper that this library stimulated the purchase of books. I think there can be no question about the facts in Pittsburgh."

Mr. William E. Foster, librarian of the Providence Public Library: "A year ago Mr. Dana sent me the same question, asking me to refer it to our local booksellers. I did so, but I received nothing definite as an answer. One of them told me verbally that he thought there was very little hindrance, and that he had sometimes thought that there might be some help."

Mr. Foster has in his library a selection of books called the "Standard Library," to which the public has free access. Of this he says: "One reader bought for his own shelves several hundred dollars' worth of these books."

Mr. John Cotton Dana, librarian of the Newark Free Public Library: "In my opinion public libraries help the sale of books. This opinion is based not on observed facts, but on the theory that any institution which brings books to the attention of the people has a tendency to increase the purchasing habit. A leading bookseller in Springfield, Mass., where I was librarian for four years, told me that during my stay there he was convinced that the bookbuying habit increased and that the increase was due to some (a considerable) extent to the increased interest in

books due to the work of the public library."

Mr. Gardner M. Jones, librarian of the Salem (Mass.) Public Library: "My experience while in the booktrade was that customers often bought books from having taken them from a library. Of late years I have no means of judging, but have no doubt the same is true. I think that the library, as well as everything else that promotes intelligence, helps the sale of books."

Dr. James H. Canfield, librarian of Columbia University Library: "As college libraries are a part of the equipment with which a man is educated and prepared for the world, and help to form the atmosphere in which he is bred, and which is it desirable shall be continued, there is no question whatever that these libraries advance and increase the sale of books. This is simply another way of saying that a well educated and cultured man buys more books than one who has not had these advantages. It is difficult to say whether those who make use of a university library buy certain books because they have first seen them there—though this is undoubtedly true of all standard authors."

Dr. Ernest C. Richardson, librarian of Princeton University Library: "I believe that college libraries help the sale of books. Our patrons do often buy from having first seen them in the library. I myself buy more books in duplication of books in this library and the Theological Seminary, because I have seen them and found their value for myself, than I do books from catalogs, because I cannot get them here, although that sometimes happens."

Mr. Cole considered also the net price system, and said: "Two questions were asked these same librarians regarding the effect upon their purchases of the action of the publishers in establishing net prices, viz.: Has the system of net prices, adopted by the publishers, had a favorable or unfavorable effect upon your purchases? Has it increased or lessened them? Does your library now purchase more books from second-hand dealers and at auction sales than before net prices were adopted?"

"It is unnecessary to quote all that was said in reply upon these points. Libraries are limited in their purchases by the amount of their funds, which are usually a fixed amount. The general consensus of opinion seems to be that the net price system has had a very unfavorable effect, at least temporarily, upon the smaller libraries; that with the money at their disposal fewer current publications could be purchased than formerly; and that the average cost has been very largely increased. This has not borne out the publishers' assurances, made when the system was adopted, that the cost to libraries would remain about the same under the new as under the old system. In view of the widespread influence that the library possesses as an advertising medium, it would seem that the publishers, by discriminating against the libraries, have

not displayed that business sagacity which we should expect of them, if, indeed, they have not been hoist by their own petard. On the other hand, librarians have learned something by this experience, and I very much question whether, if the old conditions were restored, they would buy as largely of current books as formerly. They have learned by this experience some things which will be to their permanent advantage. In the first place, that they can wait for many of the new books until the net price has been removed, by which time, in very many, if not in most cases they find they can do quite as well, if not better, without them, and will continue to let them remain as 'plugs' in the publishers' bins. The librarian has also learned that there are such things as second-hand dealers and book-auction, and that books can be bought through these channels at very reasonable prices."

He quoted several of the replies received upon these points, as follows:

Mr. Dewey: "The net system is most just, and I have always favored it strongly. But the unjust discrimination against libraries has been most unfortunate for the publishers. It is getting to be a rule in libraries intelligently administered that more books are got for the money than under the old system, but they come from second-hand catalogs, auctions, importations, and other sources. The 10 per cent. rule has cut off sales of publishers very largely indeed. The result is that of many editions great quantities of books are stacked on the shelves that would have gone to libraries under the old rules. The cost of manufacturing and advertising has been borne by the publishers, who are now carrying *dead stock* where they might have had cash in bank. Furthermore, many of these books did not sell, when finally offered for sale, at the old library discount after the 10 per cent. rule is off, because their freshness is past and libraries find that they can get along without them, and prefer to put their money into auction and clearance sales. The result, in many cases, is a sale of a *dead stock* through these channels, so that after a few months the library gets the identical copy for which it would have gladly paid trade prices, for one-fifth or one-half the money. The publishers are great losers; the public is the gainer."

"I have advised against contests with the publishers, as librarians have no business to dictate to them the way they should do their business. Any publisher has a perfect right to charge \$5 for the ordinary 12mo, but the public has the right to let the book alone. We can, when the publisher offers the book, take it at a fair price. The present movement was dictated by the retail booktrade with the theory that they would make from the libraries. It has been no gain to them, and has caused great loss to the publishers. When they learn that their books lie dead on their shelves, or go to auction or clearance sales, as a result

of the 10 per cent. system, they will insist upon its abolition. The library has every whit as strong a claim as a bookseller to have trade rates. They publish and exhibit books many customers cannot make profit on. I am sure that publishers will find out, in time, what the real result is and without further discussion, and will find some way of illustrating to the public the privileges of trade rates to which they are justly entitled."

Mr. N. D. C. Hodges, librarian of the Cincinnati Public Library: "With reference to the net system of prices, I suppose there is no question that it has increased the cost of new books, but never to my knowledge has there been on the market such an enormous supply of remainders and books offered at cut prices. We are buying from such surplus stocks at discounts far greater than we had a few years ago."

Dr. Bernard C. Steiner: "The net price system has limited seriously the number of books we can buy, as our income has not increased and the price of books has increased. The publishers have killed the goose that laid the golden eggs by making the net price system most effective on all books but novels, viz., just the classes whose purchase by libraries is most important to them. For example, the purchase of a popular novel by public libraries is proportionately to the size of the edition quite small when compared with the purchase of a miscellaneous work issued in an edition of say a thousand copies."

Mr. Hiller C. Wellman: "The limitation of the discount to libraries, which was imposed by the publishers coincidentally with the adoption of the net price system, has increased the cost to libraries of non-fiction about 27 per cent. The result has been that this library has declined to purchase a great many of the current net-price books. Of those which we do purchase a large proportion are imported, the amount of our imports having increased four or five hundred per cent. We purchase also far more second-hand and auction books."

"To the degree that librarians are led to scrutinize current books more carefully and reject more of the trivial books, the net-price system has had a beneficial effect. But the increased price exacted by the publishers' trust has been a decided hardship. The larger libraries, while seriously affected, have been able to meet the conditions to a certain extent through the methods of purchasing outlined above; but the medium size and smaller libraries, I think, have been plundered unmercifully. The artificial scale of prices imposed by the net-price system in the case of libraries offers great temptation to competing booksellers to evade its provisions, and such evasion, especially in the case of larger libraries, I am told is exceedingly common. This also makes the net-price system bear harder in proportion on the smaller libraries."

"These extracts fairly represent the feelings of librarians in regard to the net-price

system, and show what methods are being employed to overcome the hardship which it imposes. The librarians are learning the market better and are perhaps helping to create the 'enormous supply of remainders' to which Mr. Hodges refers. A committee on book prices has been appointed by the American Library Association, which is endeavoring to convince the publishers that they have committed themselves to a suicidal policy in their course against libraries. The committee is doing a good work in its efforts to enlighten librarians, especially those of the smaller libraries, as to the best and most economical methods of buying. . . .

"To summarize, it seems to be the general opinion of librarians that the sale of books is promoted by their institutions, not only in the sales made directly to themselves, but in those which arise indirectly by the promotion of a general interest in books and reading. The net-price system, coupled with its unjust discrimination against libraries, seems to have worked to the disadvantage of the publishers, driving librarians to a greater use of second-hand dealers and auction sales, importations, etc. Instead of making liberal terms with libraries, as sound business principles demanded, and improving the facilities which they offer as free advertisers, their custom has been driven into other channels of the trade and the publishers find themselves selling less books than before the present system was adopted. As suggested by Mr. Dewey, the time is probably not far off when the publishers will see the injudiciousness of their course and take effective measures to regain the custom they have lost."

Mr. Bostwick's remarks were as follows: "I feel somewhat guilty in addressing so large an assembly of dealers in books, because if it is true, as we are told, that the librarian is taking the bread out of the bookseller's mouth, I must be responsible for a more than usually large abstraction of pabulum, for the library that I represent circulates yearly among New Yorkers alone 3,000,000 volumes — more than any similar institution in the world."

"And yet I would have you dwell not on the greatness of this number, but on the smallness of it. Three million loaves of bread would be a respectable number, yet as a yearly allowance for 3,000,000 people it would mean starvation. And I submit that in distributing an average of one book a year to each man, woman and child in Greater New York, a library does not go far toward satisfying what ought to be the demand for books — it is doing little more than distributing samples."

"Now we have here a commodity that is an intellectual necessity, if there ever was one, something that every man needs and yet that comparatively few use, because the need is not recognized. To the dealers in that commodity come certain persons with the offer that they will distribute samples of it — one

yearly on the average to every man, woman and child in New York. They will not only charge nothing for the work of distribution, but they will purchase the samples, asking only for a fair discount. Should that offer be received appreciatively or refused?

"To go further. Suppose that during a period of years this distribution of samples has gone on and that at the same time there has been an unprecedented increase in the demand for the commodity. Suppose that the dealers and manufacturers then come to the distributors of samples and say to them: 'You are spoiling our trade. Every man who receives one of your free samples would otherwise purchase of us at net price. You are therefore a nuisance, and although we cannot refuse to sell to you, we shall reduce your discount and do our best to put you on the same footing as the general public. As for the great increase in our business since you began your work of distributing samples and thereby rousing general interest in our commodity, we deny that it is in any way due to your efforts and we defy you to prove it.'

"It is the belief of librarians that this is precisely what they have been doing for the booktrade—arousing interest in literature and giving out samples of it which can not and do not try to satisfy the demand. To treat this question by asking whether a specific individual would have bought a specific book if he had not been able to take it out of a free library is a narrow and a misleading method.

"I remember well that not many years ago the editors of periodicals looked askance on the methods of journals like the *Literary Digest*, *Public Opinion*, the *Review of Reviews* and others made up chiefly of extracts. They argued that the man who could read in one of these the cream of the week's periodical literature would not need the original periodicals themselves. They know better now. Most of them welcome full quotation and extract by any of these eclectic journals. They even sometimes complain that such quotation is too infrequent. In short, they recognize the fact that such sampling of their goods does them no harm but, on the contrary, helps them.

"To what is the great recent increase of reading due? To increase of readers or increase of individual reading? So far as I can ascertain from our own statistics it is entirely due to accessions to the ranks of readers, individual reading having even slightly decreased during recent years. In other words, thousands of people are reading who did not or who would not have read 20 years ago. Has the addition of these recruits to the ranks of the reading public hurt the booktrade? And has the work of the public library had anything to do with recruiting them? It may not be possible to settle these questions statistically, but we librarians think we know the answers."

BULLETINS OF A. L. A. COMMITTEE ON BOOK PRICES.

THE A. L. A. committee on book prices has issued Bulletins nos. 4 and 5 on "Book buying," for April and May, respectively, as follows:

Bulletin no. 4.

The money paid for books by 206 libraries in a recent year was about \$700,000. Of these, 123 spent less than \$100 each. Only six college and three state libraries are included. All the libraries in the country spend for books annually over \$2,000,000. Such a group of buyers, if united in purpose, can obtain proper concessions in the market.

For those who wish to file a protest against a certain bill now before Congress, with any member of Congress, the following is suggested:

"In the name of this library, I desire to enter a protest against Senate bill 5314, introduced by Senator Platt of Connecticut, on March 30. It provides that the privileges of the free importation given to libraries shall be restricted to the case of those articles concerning which 'the holders of the American copyrights thereof, in writing consent to such importation.' This law is unwise because there are often occasions in which it is desirable to have both a foreign and an American edition of a book in a public library, and because frequently the foreign edition is more desirable than the American one, on account either of the character of the paper, binding, or price. There is a still more serious objection. It would make it almost impossible for a library to order a book in advance of publication. Frequently a book is announced on one side of the ocean or the other, months and even years before it is published, and before plans have been made to obtain an international copyright for it. It is impossible for libraries to know in advance what books will be copyrighted, and it would happen continually that a book which we had ordered from abroad would be copyrighted in the United States between the date of the order and the time when we receive the book. I trust that you will use your influence against this bill."

Publishers depend on library trade in issuing books not in great popular demand. For example, some of them have said it pays to issue any "nature book," as the libraries will always take enough to cover the cost. If librarians generally refrain from the purchase of new books, within the first year after issue, the value of their trade to publishers will become very evident.

Pilgrim Press, Chicago; Baker & Taylor, S. F. McLean & Co., and John R. Anderson, all of New York City, all issue remainder catalogs, offering recent books at very low prices.

A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago, Ill., issue lists of recent books on which the net price

rule of 10 per cent. discount only has expired by lapse of time. On such books the discount which may be given is not limited. Many libraries will find these lists valuable.

Address inquiries and suggestions to any member of the committee. Arthur E. Bostwick, chairman, N. Y. Public Library, 226 West 42d st.; John Cotton Dana, Newark (N. J.) Free Public Library; Bernard C. Steiner, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Md.

Bulletin no. 5.

Small libraries can buy at auction to great advantage. Of course not recent books, but the older ones of high class. Begin with those in New York and Boston. Write to Anderson Auction Co., no. 5 West 29th street, New York, and C. F. Libbie & Co., 646 Washington street, Boston, Mass., asking them to send you the catalogs issued by them covering the fields in which you are interested, stating that it is your purpose to begin buying books at auction and offering to pay for the catalogs if they cannot send them without charge. When a catalog is received, check at once such titles as you wish to buy. Examine these titles carefully to identify editions, decide what prices the library can afford to pay, and send in your bids. One can offer from one-third to one-half of the published price for ordinary items and get excellent returns.

Write a letter about as follows:

Dear Sir: Please execute for me at your auction sale on ——— (date) Catalog no. ——— the following bids, Lot 235 Shakespeare, 6 volumes at 40 cents, Lot 433 Hawthorne, 12 volumes at 65 cents. (Signature.)

Lot 235 in this case would cost you \$2.40, as bids and sales are always made on single volumes in each lot. The auctioneer executes such orders without charge. The best time in the year for auction bargains is May.

Every library, however small, ought to possess a few of the best book lists to aid in book buying. All the books listed below are indispensable. Every community should have at hand information about all books in print, new and old, on any subject. Oftener it is wiser to buy the old and tried book than the new, unknown one. These book-lists, especially no. 10, tell about the best books. We designate those most needed, if funds for the purchase of all are not available, with a star.

1. **Publishers' Weekly*, \$3 per year. Lists all American books and many English. 2. **Publishers' Trade list annual*, with combined index, 2 v., \$8. All American and many English publishers' catalogs, with alphabetic index. 3. *Annual American catalogue*, triennial cumulation, \$4. American and some English books. 4. *American catalogue*, 5 yearly cumulation of the Annual, \$15. (For all the above address 208 Broadway, New York City.)

5. *English catalogue (annual)*, \$1.50. Eng-

lish books of the year. 6. Same, triennial cumulation, \$7.50. 7. *Publishers' Circular*, weekly, \$2.75. These three by Sampson Low, London. 8. *Reference catalogue (English)*, known as Whitaker's, \$3.50. (Whitaker, London.) Like American Trade list annual above. 9. *U. S. catalog, \$10. All books in print in English, by author, subject and title; a dictionary of all books. 10. *Monthly cumulative book index*, \$2. (Both by Wilson Co., Minneapolis, Minn.) 11. **Sonnenschein. Reader's Guide*, 2 v., \$14. (Sonnenschein, London.) Lists the best books, about 80,000 vols. on all subjects by classes, with indexes. Very valuable.

A discount of 10 per cent. is given on most of these.

Address inquiries and suggestions to any member of the committee. Arthur E. Bostwick, chairman, N. Y. Public Library, 226 West 42d st.; John Cotton Dana, Newark (N. J.) Free Public Library; Bernard C. Steiner, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Md.

QUESTIONS IN BOOK BUYING.

Frank B. Gay in 40th report of Watkinson Library, Hartford, Ct.

WITH small funds, what shall we purchase?

Many popular publications are bought because asked for, but the number of calls is often in inverse proportion to the lasting value of the book, while at the same time other books should be bought now although no living man is likely to use them. These latter are the books for all time, but of which there will be no second edition. How can we reasonably satisfy a somewhat uncritical public; a very critical, scholarly class, and at the same time build a collection for the future which shall not unduly consist of "dead books?"

In a city of this size there will be but few specialists, and not more than one or two in any particular field, at the same time. But curiously enough, the advanced specialist and the ordinary, uncritical user of books, are true yoke-fellows in that they more than all others would fill your shelves with what will soon be unused books. Nothing but the latest statement or experiment satisfies either, whether it concern the vanishing point of heat or cold, the molecular theory, the color of Queen Elizabeth's hair, or the birth of Washington. One asks for the latest report on his subject, and that in a foreign tongue; he uses the page or paragraph containing the statement he wishes, and the expensive book is then practically dead for years; the other calls for the latest cyclopædia or popular handbook to all knowledge in one volume. One knows not and cares not for original authorities, the other for nothing else. Both must be served in addition to the large un-

cultivated class of readers of varied interests, though specialists in none.

This question is to my mind very pertinent now. There are many signs that the somewhat overstimulated American book market of the last few years is to suffer a relapse. While the good books of all time will still bring fair prices, and libraries will still continue to have as competitors the wealthy buyer who is also a booklover with understanding, a considerable bulk of the "amateur" class is almost sure to drop out, owing to present business conditions. The last ten years have shown a rapid rise in values in the American and foreign auction rooms—quite largely due to this latter class of buyers, but agents tell me that to-day it is hard to interest these men in books which, as late as last spring, were easily placed at high figures. The collections of this class of buyers also are likely to come on the market soon, and their *fad* books, *de luxe* copies, and "whatnot," in extravagant bindings will fall largely in price, and their intrinsically good books may suffer in company. Here is the opportunity for moderate funds. One of the most famous of these *de luxe* libraries has just been sold. Gathered within ten years at an estimated cost of toward half a million, the late owner's estate will not realize ten per cent. on the cost.

Fad publications are not necessarily valueless, and fine paper and good bindings joined with good text are much to be preferred to poor paper and no binding. You may hope to see in the next year or so many needed but costly additions at lower prices than lately seemed possible.

BILL TO RESTRICT IMPORTATION OF COPYRIGHT BOOKS.

On March 30, 1904, Senator Platt, of Connecticut, introduced into the U. S. Senate "a bill to amend title 60, chapter 3, of the Revised Statutes of the United States, relating to copyrights." The bill, which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Patents, amends the provision regarding free importation of books by libraries as follows: "*but the privilege accorded to certain institutions under paragraph 515 of section 2 of said Act, to import free of duty not more than two copies of books, maps, lithographic prints, and charts shall apply to the importation of books, maps, lithographic prints, and charts which have been copyrighted in the United States, only when the holders of the American copyrights thereof in writing consent to such importation.*" This amendment is applied also, as indicated by italics, to the importing privilege granted "persons purchasing for use and not for sale, who import subject to the duty thereon and with the written consent of the holders of the American copyrights, not more than two copies of such books at any one time."

THE CLARK UNIVERSITY LIBRARY BUILDING, WORCESTER, MASS.

When Mr. Jonas Gilman Clark, the founder of Clark University, Worcester, Mass., died in May, 1900, he left the sum of \$150,000 to erect, equip and maintain a building for library purposes on a designated corner of the university grounds. In addition to this sum he left about \$500,000 as a permanent endowment "for the support and maintenance" of a library. In founding the university in 1887, he had already given the sum of \$100,000 to the library, so that the present endowment amounts to about \$600,000, the income of which is available for all library purposes. When the terms of Mr. Clark's will were made public, President G. Stanley Hall requested the librarian to prepare rough sketches of the floor plans of such a building as he considered essential to the growing needs of the university. At a meeting of the board of trustees in July following, these sketches were laid before the board and they voted that the librarian proceed to erect and equip such a building as he had outlined, leaving all details in his hands and attaching but one condition, that the total cost for building and equipment should not exceed the sum of \$125,000, as they desired to invest the other \$25,000 as a fund from the income of which the building should be kept in proper repair. In September, 1901, Messrs. Frost, Briggs & Chamberlain, of Worcester, were given the commission to prepare the plans, and the contract for the building was placed with the Norcross Brothers Co. in March, 1902. The aim has been to erect a building suited to the needs of the university. In round figures the items making up the total cost were as follows:

Architects, preliminary plans, surveys, and preparing the site.....	\$6,000
Excavations and foundations.....	4,000
Building contract including many changes during course of construction.....	97,000
Heating apparatus.....	8,000
Electric wiring and fixtures.....	3,000
Book cases and furniture.....	7,000
	<hr/>
	\$125,000

The building was completed July 1, 1903.

The library stands at the corner of Main and Downing streets, with a front entrance on Main street and two side entrances, one on Downing street and the other on the university campus. It is built of Harvard brick with Indiana limestone trimmings and is three stories high. The dimensions of the Main street front are 78 x 49 feet, and the wing extending along Downing street is 119 x 49 feet. It has a present shelving capacity of 100,000 volumes which can be doubled later without making any changes to the building. The design is a modern adaptation of the Gothic style, suggestive of many of the English university buildings. The treatment is simple, no attempt having been made at elaboration.

The lighting is entirely by electricity, the windows are large, giving abundance of light in every room, the glass used being the best quality American plate. The construction is what is known as mill construction, the floors being made of four-inch plank resting upon iron beams. The walls are lined with hollow brick, there being no wooden furring.

On the first floor is the main corridor, with a cross corridor leading to lavatories on either side. The two front rooms are intended for special collections later on. Opposite the staircase leading to the second floor is the unpacking room, conveniently located near the Downing street entrance and connected with the cataloging rooms above by a booklift. Opposite the unpacking room is the janitor's room, under the stair landing. The stack room in the rear will hold about 75,000 volumes. It is 45 x 95 feet and 12 feet high. The electric fan, for ventilating purposes, is located in one corner of this room.

At the head of the stairs on the second floor is the attendant's desk, so situated that it commands a full view of the main library and the reference room, thus ensuring economy of administration. The cataloging room, immediately back of the attendant's desk, communicates with the main library through an archway provided with sliding doors. On one side of the reference room is the president's room, 25 x 45 feet, which will eventually contain the private collection bequeathed to the university by the founder, containing about 5000 volumes all in very handsome bindings. Opposite the president's room is the librarian's room, 16 x 25 feet, and the periodical room, 25 x 29 feet, where current numbers of periodicals are kept. One side of this room contains a case for the periodicals. It is eight feet high and is partitioned off into box-like compartments, eight inches and ten inches wide respectively, giving accommodation for over 300 journals. The shelves are all movable and, like all the book shelves in the library, they are constructed with a narrow flange so that a shelf label card may be readily inserted and used along any part of the shelf, thus doing away with the ordinary shelf label holder so destructive to the bindings of books. At the end of the reference room, on the Main street front, is a large Gothic window fitted up with a platform and window-seat. The main library room on this floor has a shelving capacity of 30,000 volumes. It is divided into alcoves, 8 x 15 feet each, by means of double book cases running out into the room from the walls. Each alcove is provided with a table 2 x 8 feet. There are three open fireplaces on this floor; in the president's room, the librarian's room, and in the main library.

On the third floor there is another library room 45 x 95 feet, arranged in alcoves like the one below, but, while the room on the second floor is 16 feet high, this one is 19 and is lighted by a skylight in the roof extending nearly the whole length of the room. The

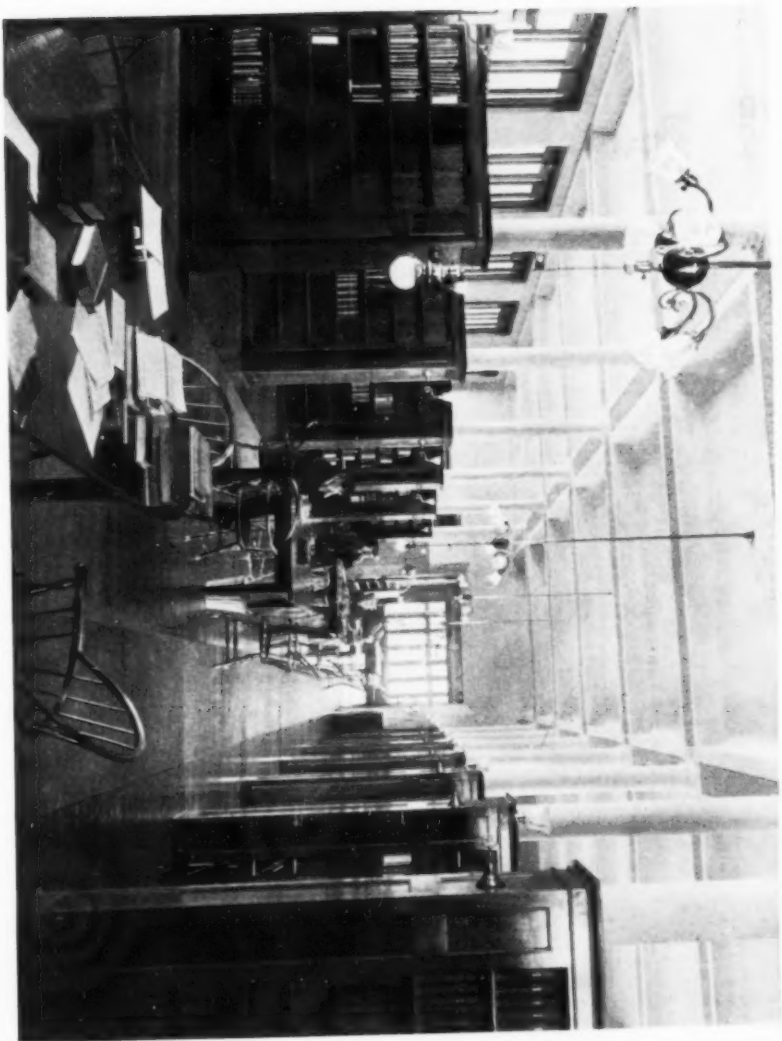
windows here are not so large as those on the lower floor. On the Main street front there is an art gallery, 45 x 75 feet and 23 feet high, which has been provided for the art collections of the founder, which will be deposited here later. A passenger elevator well was provided but, for the present, it has been floored over and answers the purpose of a convenient cloak room on each floor.

The finish throughout the building is of quartered oak stained a little darker than the so-called golden oak. The walls and ceilings are calcimined in plain tints.

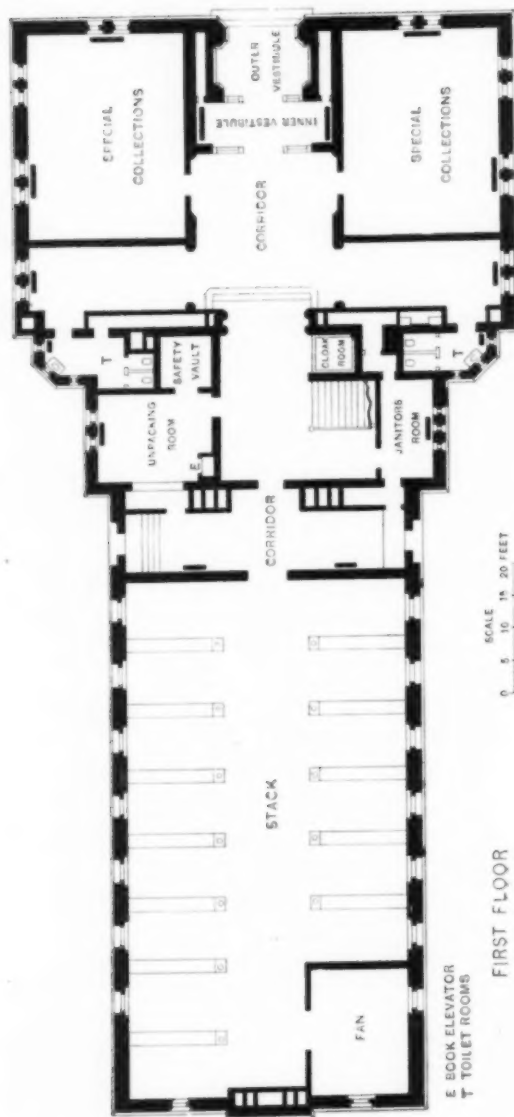
In building a library as well as in administering one, it is astonishing to find how difficult it is to make any radical departure from conventional lines. So long as you are content to repeat what has been done before there is no difficulty; but when you undertake anything new, even if it is only in the matter of window or wall space, you find it very hard to enlist any sympathy lest the innovation should prove unsuccessful. So long as one is content to accept the stock on the market all goes well, but your judgment, or your sanity, is immediately questioned if you attempt any radical departure, and you find almost everybody too busy doing the usual thing to have time to undertake the unusual. The pressure brought to bear is so universal that many a good idea is strangled at birth, and I sometimes seriously question whether a season of great prosperity is ever productive of many new departures. We were, therefore, particularly fortunate here in having the cordial support of the board and in having the most eminent builder in the United States as our mentor and guide.

The cost of a building is usually estimated by the cubic feet of contents. Here we have 609,000 cubic feet which, divided into the total cost of \$125,000, makes 20½ cents per cubic foot for building and equipment. As libraries go, and considering the excellent appointments of this building, the cost is exceptionally low.

The greatest enemy of a library is dust, so it is very important that nothing should be introduced into a library building of this character, unless it has a distinct bearing upon the use of books. For this reason no seminary rooms have been provided, because it is better to send the books to the class rooms than to bring the classes to the books. It is the result of experience that you cannot use a very large number of books at one time in class work, and the amount of confusion introduced into a library by bringing classes within its walls is deplored in many of the larger university libraries. The constant coming and going of numbers of men at stated hours has a tendency to disturb those who are studying in the library, and the same results may be equally well obtained by taking a reasonable number of books into the class room, with a decided benefit to the individual workers in the library. It has been thought



INTERIOR VIEW, CLARA UNIVERSITY LIBRARY.



SCALE
0 5 10 15 20 FEET

FIRST FLOOR

E BOOK ELEVATOR
T TOILET ROOMS

wise, also, to provide a special library and study room for the undergraduates in the main building, drawing upon this library for such books as are needed for class work from term to term, thus ensuring perfect quiet and ideal conditions for research work in this building.

In order further to minimize dust and dirt, the heating apparatus was placed in the main building where we have installed a boiler of large capacity and a hot water heating system. The hot water is sent over here in pipes laid underground. Whether we have gained enough in cleanliness to compensate for the loss of heat in cold weather is something which cannot yet be determined. But the heating and ventilating of such a building is a serious problem and we can only hope that time and a closer acquaintance with the system we have adopted may dispel our present doubts.

Every book in the building is accessible to the readers, and, while the library is spending over \$10,000 a year for books, it is administered by the librarian and two assistants. The question of access to the shelves has never been debated here because, from the foundation of the university, we have assumed that in order to make the books of the greatest service and reduce the cost of administration, every part of the library must be freely accessible.

The proceedings and addresses at the public opening of the library have just been printed in the "Publications of the library, vol. 1, no. 3, April, 1904. (See L. J., March, p. 148.)

LOUIS N. WILSON.

ONTARIO LIBRAIRY ASSOCIATION.

THE fourth annual meeting of the Ontario Library Association, at Toronto, April 4 and 5, was a decided success. The attendance was large and representative and the delegates were very much in earnest. Thirty library boards, three university libraries and several business houses were represented; the papers and addresses were thoughtful and stimulating, and the discussions were full of life. The association showed itself a lusty four-year-old and gave every promise of increasing vigor and activity.

The president, Mr. H. H. Langton, University of Toronto, called the meeting to order Monday afternoon and asked for the annual reports. That of the secretary, Mr. E. A. Hardy, Lindsay, referred to the past year as the most active in library matters in the history of the Province of Ontario and noted a correspondence of 350 letters and cards sent and received, and 1800 circulars, programs and pamphlets sent out. The treasurer's report was fairly satisfactory, but more funds would make him a gladder man. For the committee on the list of best books for 1903 Dr. Bain reported that the list would be completed and sent out at once, if there

was any real demand for it. On receiving various responses from delegates present certifying the value of the previous lists, Dr. Bain promised the speedy issue of the one now in hand. The committee on travelling libraries reported that the government had sent out 31 libraries of 50 volumes each, and that these had been sent to mining, lumber and construction camps almost exclusively. The visits of those libraries were greatly appreciated by the men in these camps, but the travelling library might be more widely useful, by being supplementary to the secondary schools.

The committee on an Ontario Library Commission reported that they had not as yet been asked to persuade the government to accept the commission idea. The committee were reappointed and again urged by the association to do everything in their power to secure a library commission for the province. Just here rose a discussion of a very practical nature. For years the Ontario Legislature has given to public libraries an annual grant equal to what they spend in books up to \$200 and on reading room up to \$50. Their appropriation, however, was a lump sum. So long as the libraries did not spend more than this sum, the grant was paid in full, dollar for dollar. With the increase of libraries, however, there came a time when the libraries were spending more than the legislature appropriation; then came a pro rata reduction, slight at first, but in 1902 amounting to 20% and in 1903 30%, and this year by a change in the interpretation of the regulations for the distribution of the grant, the cut amounts to 50%. The library boards wanted to know the why and wherefore of this new interpretation and some very vigorous sentiments were expressed. Finally a committee was appointed to wait on the Deputy Minister of Education and subsequently, the executive committee of the association interviewed the Minister of Education, who promised to look into the matter again.

The first paper was by Mr. W. J. Robertson, of St. Catherine's, and his topic "Should the education department issue a librarian's certificate?" Mr. Robertson thought this a self-evident proposition, but brought forward a strong argument to support his case. He claimed, however, that for the present private enterprise could undertake the training of librarians, but the Education Department should conduct an examination and issue a certificate. After an interesting discussion, the following resolution was carried unanimously: "That the librarians of public libraries receiving not less than 75% of the government grant shall hold Junior Leaving (or its equivalent) English standing and in addition be required to pass a professional examination in library work, under the control of the Education Department, this regulation not to apply to present librarians." A committee of Mr. W. J. Robertson, St. Cather-

ine's, Inspector D. D. Moshier, Sarnia, and Rev. W. A. Bradley, Berlin, was appointed to wait on the Minister of Education in connection with this motion.

Mr. Norman Gurd, Sarnia, in his paper "How to deepen public interest in the library," showed very clearly the value of a cultured, enthusiastic library trustee. In the great majority of public libraries, the board must do the chief work, as sufficient funds are not available for expert librarians. He strongly advocated allowing the public free access to the shelves, and urged simplification of rules and the least possible restriction in the uses of the library. The most valuable asset of the library is a reputation for hospitality. New books should be added every month. The importance of advertising the library by frequent notices in the papers was dwelt on. Reviews of books of importance should be given and bulletins of works dealing with the questions of the day. The librarian should take a personal interest in the patrons. He may thus turn the casual visitor into a firm friend of the library. Circulation statistics should be analyzed and weak sections strengthened. The library should be in touch with the public at as many points as possible. There should be a club room for men, and a special room for children. Free lectures should be given. The auditorium should be offered free of charge for meetings of a public nature. Library trustees do not discharge their duty by simply attending meetings of the board. They should visit the library frequently and study to improve on the methods in vogue.

At the evening session Mr. W. A. Fraser, author of "Mooswa," "The thoroughbreds" and other stories, gave an informal chat on nature stories and claimed for Canada a pre-eminence in that particular department of art. Ernest Seton-Thompson, Chas. G. D. Roberts (and he might have mentioned W. A. Fraser) are at the head in this kind of story, their only peer being Kipling. Mr. J. Macdonald Oxley followed with an address on "Boys' books." Mr. Oxley is a capital speaker and pleaded for a higher and purer tone in boys' reading. The books at present in vogue are too bloody and ferocious; Ballantyne and Jules Verne are much preferable to Henty. A social hour completed a very pleasant evening and laid a precedent which will doubtless be observed, with improvements, from year to year.

The papers at the Tuesday morning session were full of information and provoked general discussion. Mr. E. A. Hardy, Lindsay, led an open conference on library buildings in Ontario. From data he had collected, Mr. Hardy noted that in the past 18 months, 22 library buildings had been erected in Ontario, 19 of these being Carnegie buildings and three from other sources. Two cities, St. Thomas and Toronto, have accepted donations from Mr. Carnegie, but have not begun

to build, one town refused to accept and one town has not yet made up its mind. 13 towns and cities bought the site, in two places the library board bought it and in four places the site was given. In almost every case the site was in, or very near, the business center, and nearly all the sites were large and completely, or fairly well, isolated. As to stack room capacity, 14 libraries have now 96,000 volumes and the estimated capacity of their new buildings is 314,000 volumes; in almost every case provision being made for further expansion. If these libraries should add 1000 volumes each per year, 15 years would be necessary to overtake their capacity. Nearly all the buildings are brick, Guelph's being of cement. Almost all are one-story; steam or hot-water is the favorite heating system. Brantford, Guelph, Chatham, Paris and Sarnia have domes, the first two buildings having two stories. Berlin, Brockville, Chatham, Guelph, Lindsay, Ottawa, St. Catherine's, Windsor have card catalogs, and Berlin, Brockville, Chatham, Ottawa, Sarnia and Windsor have metal stacks. Open access is provided in Sarnia and Lindsay, and partial open access in Berlin, Guelph, Ottawa and Stratford. Children's rooms are found in 10 buildings and smoking rooms in five. Some special features are a bindery and a ladies' club room in Berlin, a room for the County Historical Society in Lindsay, and janitor's living apartments in basement in Smith's Falls and Stratford. Blue prints and photographs of many of the buildings made this subject very helpful.

"The co-operation of library and school: some practical steps" formed the theme of an excellent paper by Mr. J. P. Hoag, Brantford, and of the practical discussion that followed. Mr. Hoag said that the public school is one great educational force; the public library is another; but the public school plus the public library is greater than either. Co-operation will be of more importance educationally than all the recent educational movements and additions combined. Ontario is far behind the leading states of the Union in this, as in most other library matters; we must rouse ourselves and endeavor to make up the leeway. Where the library is large enough, there should be a separate children's room with low open shelves, pictures, flowers, etc.; where the library is too weak for this, a children's corner open at certain hours is possible. The age limit of 12 or 14 years should be abolished, and let every boy or girl who can read be allowed to use the library. Bulletin boards and pictures of birds, animals, etc., with suitable lists of books should be placed in the libraries. Teachers should be allowed special privileges in selecting books for their classes and should be allowed to draw as many as 20 at a time; or sets of books may be sent by the library to the schools. Above all things let librarian and teachers work together in harmony and with enthusiasm and

make the library to children "a thing of beauty" and "a joy forever."

The officers for 1904-5 were elected as follows: president, W. Tytler, Public Library, Guelph; 1st vice-president, W. J. Robertson, Public Library, St. Catherine's; 2d vice-president, Norman Gurd, Public Library, Sarnia; secretary, E. A. Hardy, Public Library, Lindsay; treasurer, A. B. Macallum, The Canadian Institute, Toronto. Councillors: Jas. Bain, Public Library, Toronto; W. F. Moore, Public Library, Dundas; A. Sheldrick, Public Library, Chatham; A. Steele, Public Library, Orangeville; H. H. Langton, University of Toronto Library.

Mr. C. H. Gould, of McGill University Library, Montreal, was present at the meeting and made the important announcement that in June McGill University Library would open a short course for librarians, especially suited for librarians in small libraries. This announcement was felt to be very opportune. The affiliation of the O. L. A. with the Ontario Educational Association was briefly discussed and referred to incoming executive board for further consideration. The A. L. A. meeting at St. Louis was announced and no doubt Ontario will be represented at that gathering. It may be interesting to note in closing this report that the women present at the association meeting constituted less than one-fifth of the entire attendance. E. A. H.

FIFTY BEST BOOKS OF 1903 FOR A VILLAGE LIBRARY.

THE NEW YORK STATE LIBRARY gives the results of the vote taken by librarians on its annual list of best books of the year past, in the following list of 50 titles, recommended as the best books for a village library:

	No. votes.
Fox—Little shepherd of Kingdom Come.....	77
Wiggin—Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm.....	73
Keller—Story of my life.....	62
Ward—Lady Rose's daughter.....	50
London—Call of the wild.....	54
Rice—Lovey Mary.....	52
Norris—The pit.....	44
Morley—Life of Gladstone.....	41
Smith—Colonel Carter's Christmas.....	40
Baker—Boys' second book of inventions.....	39
Page—Gordon Keith.....	39
Seton—Two little savages.....	39
Ely—A woman's hardy garden.....	38
Crawford—Heart of Rome.....	37
Kipling—Five nations.....	37
Deland—Dr. Lavendar's people.....	35
Gordon—Reminiscences of the Civil War.....	35
Lang—Crimson fairy book.....	35
Brooks—Social unrest.....	34
Earle—Two centuries of costume in America, 1620-1820.....	34
Williamson—The lightning conductor.....	32
Hoar—Autobiography of seventy years.....	31
Van Vorst—The woman who toils.....	31
Baker—Descriptive guide to the best fiction.....	30
Beveridge—The Russian advance.....	30
Pyle—Story of King Arthur and his knights.....	30
Allen—Mettle of the pasture.....	29
Kelley—Three hundred things a bright girl can do.....	27
Barbour—Weatherby's inning.....	26
Chapman—Color key to North American birds.....	26

	No. votes.
Lee—Dictionary of national biography.....	26
White—The forest.....	25
Trent—History of American literature, 1607-1865.....	24
Garland—Hesper.....	23
Lee—Queen Victoria.....	23
Mitchell—Organized labor.....	23
Parker and Bryan—Old Quebec.....	23
Sturgis—How to judge architecture.....	23
Webster—When Patty went to college.....	23
Bell—Wee Macgregor.....	22
Keeler—Our northern shrubs.....	22
People of the whirlpool.....	22
Abbott—Henry Ward Beecher.....	21
Bostock—Training of wild animals.....	21
Brochner—Danish life in town and country.....	21
Bryce—Studies in contemporary biography.....	21
Carpenter—John Greenleaf Whittier.....	21
Lothrop—Five little Peppers at school.....	21
Farkington—Cherry.....	21
Brownell—Heart of Japan.....	20
Clarke—Care of a house.....	20
Clement—Handbook of modern Japan.....	20
Crothers—Gentle reader.....	20
Hammer—Radium and other radio-active substances.....	20
Long—A little brother to the bear.....	20
Van Dyck—Meaning of pictures.....	20

State Library Commissions.

NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARIES DIVISION: Melvil Dewey, director, State Library, Albany.

The report of the secretary of the University of the State of New York for the year ending Sept. 20, 1903 (Regents bulletin no. 62), gives the following summary of the work of the Public Libraries Division for that period:

"The Public Libraries Division made in 1903 330 visitations to libraries. It received official sworn reports from 1160 libraries. State aid was granted to 245 libraries to the amount of \$21,704.17, the condition of each grant being that an equal amount raised from local sources should be put with it and the whole spent for books approved by the university. The summary of sworn annual reports shows the efficiency of this work. In 1893, there were 600 libraries; now there are 1160. They added 225,195 volumes in 1893. In 1903 the additions were 434,516 volumes. In 1893 there was a total of 3,851,943 volumes with a circulation of 3,136,602. In 1903 the total volumes had grown to 7,415,376, or double, while the reading grew threefold to 11,787,849. If these statistics are limited to the free lending libraries, we find that the 238 libraries of 1893 with 849,995 volumes, circulating 2,293,861, have grown in the 10 years to 553 libraries with 2,792,319 books, circulating 10,860,349. In 1893, 6285 books a day were issued. This year the average is 29,779 or nearly five times as many. Then there were 352 books issued for each 1000 of population; now there are 1496 so issued. Then for each 100 volumes in the lending libraries there were 260 issues. This has been carried up to 300 issues for each 100 volumes, a gain of 50 %, in addition to the fivefold gain in number of volumes, the best evidence that interest has been increased and methods of administration improved."

State Library Associations

CALIFORNIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

President: Joy Lichtenstein, Public Library, San Francisco.

Secretary: Miss Margaret A. Schmidt, 1503 Powell st., San Francisco.

Treasurer: Miss Florence B. Whittier, Mechanics' Institute, San Francisco.

The monthly meeting of the Library Association of California was held in the handsome new library at Santa Rosa on April 9, 1904. It was called the Sonoma-Napa conference and was held for the purpose of bringing together persons interested in library work for a helpful interchange of ideas by the presentation of interesting themes dealing with the use of the library.

Santa Rosa is noted for its beautiful fruit-blossoms and wild flowers, especially our state flower, the poppy. Consequently when the visitors from the bay cities arrived they found the library transformed into a woodland bower. The library building was greatly admired and the trustees and the indefatigable librarian, Miss Bertha Kumli, were the recipients of many expressions of praise and congratulations.

After the enjoyment of a fine luncheon, served by young ladies of Santa Rosa, several complimentary speeches were made, including one by the president of the Santa Rosa library trustees, Councilman W. D. Reynolds, President Lichtenstein, of the state association, W. P. Kimball, of San Francisco, and others also spoke. The business meeting which began at one o'clock and at which President Lichtenstein presided, took place in the main library building. The rooms were artistically decorated with fruit-blossoms, except the California room where the poppy glowed. The Rev. L. D. Rathbone, trustee of the Santa Rosa Library, spoke on the library situation in Santa Rosa. Principal E. M. Cox, of the Santa Rosa schools, presented a paper on "The value of a library to a community." Charles S. Greene, librarian of the Oakland Public Library, gave a talk on "What a town can do for a library," and J. L. Gillis, librarian of the California State Library, read a paper on "The state library and its work." This conference is regarded as one of the most profitable ever held by the library association.

M. A. SCHMIDT, *Secretary*.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

President: Thorvald Solberg, Register of Copyrights, Library of Congress.

Secretary: Robert K. Shaw, Library of Congress.

Treasurer: William S. Burns, Jr., Public Documents Office.

An audience of 250 greeted Mr. John Thomson, librarian of the Philadelphia Free

Library, on the occasion of his lecture, delivered at the meeting of the District of Columbia Library Association on the evening of April 13. Mr. Thomson's subject was "Booksellers old and new," and his address was illustrated with lantern pictures. It has already been summarized in these columns, when delivered before the Pennsylvania Library Club in January (L. J., Feb., p. 85).

MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARY CLUB.

President: Deloraine P. Corey, trustee Public Library, Malden.

Secretary: Sam Walter Foss, Public Library, Somerville.

Treasurer: Miss Theodosia Macurdy, Public Library, Boston.

The spring meeting of the Massachusetts Library Club was held at the Deborah Cook Sayles Public Library, Pawtucket, R. I., on Tuesday, April 12. Owing to the illness of the president, Mr. D. P. Corey, Mr. G. M. Jones, of Salem, presided.

In the absence of the mayor, the chairman of the library trustees welcomed the club to Pawtucket. After Mr. Faxon had told of the plans for the next A. L. A. conference Mr. Foster opened the meeting by reading a paper on the subject of the day, "Ought librarians to work for an increased circulation?" which is printed in full elsewhere. (See p. 229.)

Discussion was opened by Miss L. A. Williams, of the Malden Public Library. She pointed out that the motto of the A. L. A. "The best reading for the largest number at the least cost" at once forces its members into a place where they must try for increased circulation. "Even a librarian who claims to be opposed to trying to increase the circulation cannot help doing so if a conscientious worker. Why do we advocate special lists, why throw open our shelves, if not wholly at least as far as possible, why do away with age limits, why allow special privileges to students and teachers, why introduce information desks and reference librarians? The reply often heard is to make the library as useful as possible, but how is this usefulness manifested except by more people coming to the library for aid and information, and the increasing circulation? We are not honest when we say we do not strive for that very thing, though we put it into different phraseology." Miss Hewins, of Hartford, followed, with the statement that her contributions to the subject were those of practical experience. She considered that there were four legitimate means of increasing circulation: (1) by having a two-card loan system; (2) by circulating bound music; (3) by circulating bound periodicals; (4) by open shelves.

Mr. W. I. Fletcher spoke of the small country libraries which had many good books on its shelves, but few readers. Some way should be sought to have these good but unused books read.

Mr. Koopman said that the librarian of to-day must be dynamical. He must reach every family in the town and make the people feel that the library could not be neglected without injury.

Mrs. Fairchild, who was at the meeting with the members of the New York State Library School, thought that circulation was incidental, but that the librarian should work for more readers. She suggested that reading aloud at the library might be used to introduce subjects to readers, *e.g.*, Poetry, read by an appreciative reader, not by an elocutionist, with occasional explanatory remarks, might make it possible for some to enjoy that form of literature who would otherwise know nothing of it. She proposed as a modification of Mr. Foster's "standard library" that in a corner of the library, easily accessible and made attractive with rugs, easy chairs, etc., should be placed a small collection of good modern books, and she named many books which she would include in such a collection. Mr. Lindsay Swift said if people kept away from the library they were probably doing something else. There is, he said, no saving grace in reading.

Mr. Jones called attention to the fact that increased circulation does not necessarily mean more reading. The aim of the librarian should be to get the right book to the right person at the right time.

Mr. Tripp, of New Bedford, said that in this age of statistics if a library is too anxious about its circulation there is a weak point in the library. Numerical circulation is incidental.

Mr. Foss then read two letters purporting to have been received from librarians who could not come to the meeting. The first letter was as follows:

"Dear Mr. Secretary: I am very glad that the matter of circulation is to be taken up at your Pawtucket meeting. I wish that I might be present and participate in the discussion; for I do not believe that public libraries ought to have circulations at all. I have noticed at most of the gatherings of librarians a large circulation is severely deprecated. This is the right attitude to take, and I believe in it intensely. But let us have the courage of our convictions and carry our argument out to its logical conclusion. If a large circulation is wrong, the conclusion is inevitable that a small circulation is wrong also. If it is wrong to steal a hundred dollars, let no petty thief conclude that it is innocent to steal one dollar. Let us have no fellowship whatever with the ungodly works of darkness. If it is wrong to circulate a hundred books it is wrong to circulate one book. Let us be consistent. We have no right to etherize our consciences with the reflection that our circulation is only a small one, and we are therefore blameless. As public librarians we have no right to circulate books at all. As long as

any books go out from the institutions over which we preside we are little better than one of the wicked. Oh! my brethren, shun even the appearance of evil. Books are not in a public library to be circulated. This is the unpardonable heresy. Books are in a public library to be cataloged, accessioned, shelved, listed, dusted, and arranged in undisturbed order in the stacks. We have something better to do in our noble profession than to engage in the petty peddling-out of books. Have we not paste-pots to be diluted twice a day? Have we not janitors to placate? Have we not quarrels among the boy attendants to adjudicate? Have we not innumerable pencils to sharpen and a weekly towel to be sent to the laundry? Let us attend strictly to our legitimate business, and leave the circulation of books to those vulgar and sensational librarians who would cheapen the great works of literature by promiscuous distribution."

The second correspondent said:

To the Secretary, Mass. Library Club.

"Dear Sir: I was amused to see by your report of Mr. Swift's paper before the last meeting of the Massachusetts Library Club that some persons still hold the preposterous notion that a librarian should be a scholar or a man of books. To show that culture is by no means requisite, let me cite my own success as a commercial librarian. I quickly realized that the present ideal of the American library is to record a large circulation for home use, regardless of the quality of the reading—so it be not classed as fiction. My first notion to boom our circulation was to bribe a hundred school boys to borrow as many volumes every morning and every afternoon by offering a stick of candy with each volume drawn. While this method is less expensive than some adopted by libraries, our trustees thought it undesirable.

"We decided instead to copy other methods, and hit upon the happy plan of subscribing to ten copies of the *Police Gazette* for circulation. Ten numbers each week made \$20 in the year. The period during which each number might be retained was limited to one week; and, as they were eagerly sought, at a trifling expense we increased our circulation for the year by some 25,000 volumes. Since the *Gazette* was classed as sociology, the percentage of fiction borrowed was thus reduced from 76% to 54%. We not only increased our circulation and consequently the usefulness of the library, but we attracted to the library many persons who, if left on the streets, might have been committing the very crimes they came to the library to read about.

"Our next expedient was even more successful. We resolved to adopt a plan similar to one tried by some of the metropolitan newspapers. We announced that on the following Saturday twenty brand-new five-dollar bills would be concealed among the leaves

of twenty different volumes scattered through various departments of the library except the fiction stack; and that the borrowers who should be lucky enough to draw the volumes containing the bills would be entitled to the money. Our enterprise was commended by all the newspapers of the city except one. That conservative journal decried the scheme, not on the ground of expense, but because it thought the plan out of keeping with the dignity of an institution of learning. Evidently its editors were not posted on the various expedients now adopted by universities as well as libraries.

"Our experiment was an unqualified success. For two days before Saturday, every member of the staff including catalogers and even the janitor had to be drafted from regular duties to help register the crowds who applied for library cards. On Saturday so great a stream of people thronged our doors that the police reserves were called out to keep the people in line. The 600 pupils from the high school, who were hired as pages, could hardly get the books from the stacks rapidly enough. When Saturday night came not a single one of our 200,000 volumes was left in the library, except the fiction. Only two works of fiction had been taken during the whole day.

"Therefore, let anyone inclined to scoff at commercial methods consider what they have accomplished for our community. By such schemes we have increased our yearly circulation from 180,000 volumes to over a million; and reduced the proportion of fiction borrowed to less than 8%. We have attracted to the library thousands who had never before entered its doors. By concealing the money anywhere in the book, we have caused the careful scrutiny of tens of thousands of volumes. We even suggested that persons lucky enough to borrow the works in which the money was hidden should read the volumes, but this was not required.

"Because a natural modesty prompts me to withhold my name, I hope no one will doubt this account of our success in fostering sound learning and true culture."

At the close of the session dinner was served at Hutchinson Hall and following this was a reception at the library, and opportunity was given for visiting the new building of the Pawtucket Boys' Club.

MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

President: Henry M. Utley, Public Library, Detroit.

Secretary: Miss Flora B. Roberts, State Library, Lansing.

Treasurer: Mrs. M. F. Jewell, Public Library, Adrian.

The 14th annual meeting of the Michigan Library Association will be held at Port Huron on Thursday and Friday, May 26 and 27. The first session will be on Thursday

afternoon at three o'clock. The Carnegie Library of Port Huron will be dedicated on Thursday evening, when Mr. Melvil Dewey will be the principal speaker. Some of the topics on the program are library institutes, the state commission, library bulletins, printed catalog cards, "the Michigan trustee and his opportunity," and a round table on work with children.

OHIO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

President: Miss Linda A. Eastman, Public Library, Cleveland.

Secretary: Miss Laura Smith, Public Library, Cincinnati.

Treasurer: Miss Grace Prince, College Library, Springfield.

The 10th annual meeting of the Ohio Library Association will be held at Findlay, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, May 24-26, headquarters to be at the Phenix Inn. The program is as follows:

Tuesday, May 24.

Evening—Reception at Adams Club rooms, 8 p.m. Music.

Wednesday, May 25.

Morning session—9.30 a.m.

Addresses of welcome, Hon. C. B. Metcalf, Mayor of Findlay; Prof. C. J. Fox, president of the library board.

Response, W. T. Porter.

President's address: The activities of a state library association, Linda A. Eastman.

Report of secretary, Laura Smith.

Report of treasurer, Grace Prince.

Report of committees:

Library extension, N. D. C. Hodges.

Legislation, W. H. Brett.

Interrelation of libraries, S. L. Wicoff.

Auditing, Martin Hensel.

Necrology, Mrs. Harriet Gast.

Afternoon session—2 p.m.

Musical selection by the Clara Schumann Club.

Women's clubs and libraries:

From the library standpoint, Georgetta Haven, Cincinnati Public Library.

From the standpoint of the clubs, Mrs. W. H. Kinder, Findlay.

The school, the home and the library, Ethel Hoskins, Dayton Public Library.

Report of committee on relation of libraries to schools, Charles Orr, Case Library, Cleveland.

Practical points in co-operation, Supt. J. W. Zellers, Findlay public schools.

Evening session—8 p.m.

Music, Orpheus Glee Club.

Address: The future of the modern library in the social system, Melvil Dewey, New York State Library.

Music, Orpheus Glee Club.

Thursday, May 26.

Morning session—9.30 a.m.

Small library section. Ellen S. Wilson, chairman; Etta G. McElwain, secretary.

A round table for the discussion of the following subjects:

Selection and use of periodicals for the small library, Mary MacCracken, Mt. Vernon Public Library.

Clubs for boys and girls held under library auspices, Daisy Smith, Piqua Public Library.

Bulletin work, Cornelia G. Smith, Warren Public Library.

Discussion of the work of the special committee on cataloging, Linda M. Clatworthy, Dayton Public Library.

College section—business session.

Informal meeting of trustees for discussion of trustees' problems.

Afternoon session—2 p.m.

Musical selection by the Fanny Bloomfield Club.

Report of the committee on library training, Electra C. Doren, Dayton Public Library.

The Western Reserve Library School, W. H. Brett, Cleveland Public Library.

Musical selection by the Fanny Bloomfield Club.

Selection of books, N. D. C. Hodges, Public Library of Cincinnati.

Report of special committee on cataloging, Linda M. Clatworthy, Dayton Public Library.

Evening session—8 p.m.

General session in charge of College section. Olive Jones, chairman; Minnie Orr, secretary.

Address: The place of the library in the educational system, President W. O. Thompson, Ohio State University, Columbus.

Music by the Miriam Quartette of the Clara Schumann Club.

Friday morning, 9.30 a.m.

Election of officers.

Unfinished business.

Library Clubs.**CHICAGO LIBRARY CLUB.***President:* Miss Irene Warren, School of Education, University of Chicago.*Secretary:* Renée B. Stern, 5515 Woodlawn avenue.*Treasurer:* C. A. Larson, Chicago Public Library.

The April meeting of the Chicago Library Club was held on the evening of the 14th, in the Chicago Public Library. The nominating committee was appointed by Miss Warren to report at the May meeting. Miss Maud Parsons, of Joliet, was elected to membership.

Mrs. Gudrun Thorne-Thompson then addressed the club on the subject of "Literature for children," urging that quality, not quantity, be our standard for judging the child's

books, and that by good, healthy literature we may get a hold upon the child, but we cannot do it by dressing up precepts in a sugar-coating. Expert committees of teachers, mothers and librarians to sift the good from the flood of children's books, with a central committee to re-sift these results, were recommended.

Mr. N. C. Schaeffer, state superintendent of public instruction of Pennsylvania, spoke on the great problem of bringing the university library to bear on the teachers of public school children. He urged also the need of forming the reading habit in children, who early go into factory or mine to become part of a great machine—making the 21st part of a pin, or the 64th part of a shoe. After such work people rush to the excitement of the saloon or card-table, while early-formed reading habits might lead some of them to books for their recreation.

Miss Evva Moore told of the library work done at Oak Park schools, where a librarian pays weekly visits to the first six grades of a school situated far from the library, in order to incite interest in the books of a loan collection located in the school by the library. There were 40 members present.

RENÉE B. STERN, Secretary.

The club has issued a circular asking for aid in carrying on and extending the system of home libraries it has maintained for some years past. It is desired to combine the work in this direction done by the club, the Bureau of Charities, and other agencies, and to place it on an assured basis. About \$1000 per year is needed to do this effectively.

LONG ISLAND LIBRARY CLUB.*President:* Miss Theresa Hitchler, Brooklyn Public Library.*Secretary:* Miss Josephine Rathbone, Pratt Institute Free Library.*Treasurer:* Miss Sara Jacobsen, Brooklyn Public Library.

The annual meeting of the club was held on Thursday afternoon, April 21, at the Young Women's Christian Association, in Brooklyn. There were about 120 persons present, Miss Hutchinson presiding.

In the absence of the secretary, a secretary pro tem. was appointed, and the meeting opened with the approval of the minutes of Feb. 18, as published in the LIBRARY JOURNAL. After four new members were admitted to the club, the chairman of the institute committee was called upon for a report. She described the arrangements made for an institute to be held in Rockville Centre on Saturday, May 14, and stated that the official life of the committee was now at an end. It was moved and carried that this committee be continued in office until after this spring institute. A nominating committee was appointed by the chair, and an announcement made of a gift of bibliographical material to the club, by the City History Club. These lists are kept at the Pratt Institute Library for the use of any

member who may wish to borrow or consult them.

The subject of an amendment to the constitution was then brought up for informal discussion, namely, that the annual dues be reduced from \$1 to 50 cents. After discussion the amendment was accepted and referred to the executive committee.

The treasurer's annual report showed an income of \$91.88 and expenditures amounting to \$92.25, with a total balance of \$117. The report was accepted and referred to an auditing committee.

The nominating committee brought in the names of Miss Theresa Hitchler, president; Mr. Albert T. Huntington, vice-president; Miss Josephine A. Rathbone, secretary, and Miss Sara Jacobsen, treasurer. The secretary was empowered to cast a ballot for these candidates, making their election unanimous.

The topic for the afternoon was "Reading for boys and girls of the high-school age," which was treated ably by Miss Alice Stevens, of the Girls' High School. Miss Stevens's requirements for girls' books are that they shall be interesting, well-written, and "standard in theme;" that is, treating of subjects which should be familiar to all, such as the manners and customs of certain periods and various countries. She cited as examples stories from the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, Davis's "Friend of Caesar," Bulwer's "Last days of Pompeii," also Bulfinch's "Age of fable" and Guerber's "Myths." The results attained from efforts to make girls read were small numerically, but eminently satisfactory in individual instances. The thing to be desired is "to cultivate the literary palette," to modify the young person's sense of superiority, to tend toward simplicity of life, to improve the vocabulary, and to develop individuality. Above all, the reading of young people should be so directed that, with the whole field of literature from which to choose, they may not waste time reading useless books.

Mr. T. C. Mitchill, of the Boys' High School, limited his discourse to the high school boys of Brooklyn, and said it was a question of what they wish to read and what you can get them to read. He considered the cultivation of taste hopeless and disparaged the idea of too much interference. He considered the mind of the growing boy as sound and well-advanced to-day as a generation ago, and that he did much good reading in spite of the distractions of cheap literature, vaudeville, athletics and excursions. The most apparent needs are for a knowledge of the things of life, such as the history and geography of England, the primitive industries, ancient and mediæval manners and customs, everything from alchemy and witchcraft to architecture or biography. He deplored the lack of curiosity in these things. Boys should read, too, the old English favorites, like "Robinson Crusoe," the "Arabian nights," "Uncle Tom's cabin," and "Pilgrim's progress." Mr. Mitchill suggested

that a "weaning" process be employed by the librarian, leading the boy by gradual stages from Henty to Dumas, Scott, Dickens, up to Hawthorne, Kingsley, or George Meredith. Through his love for "Tom Sawyer" he might read "Joan of Arc." An interest in poetry can be cultivated by first presenting a single dramatic poem, and humor is most important from the "Bab ballads" to Thackeray, embracing such minor classics as "Mr. Dooley." Other ideas brought forward were for more advanced books upon the "juvenile" shelves, for more attractive editions of standard words, and for books about rich people for the poor boy, and poor people for the rich boy, to show each the other side of life.

Mr. Fison, of the Brooklyn Public Library, spoke of the difference in the librarian's attitude from that of the teacher. In the library, we must meet the boy or girl as a fellow-citizen, and neither patronize nor over-supervise, but carry on the influence of the home and the school unobtrusively. Knowledge should be the object of young people's reading—a knowledge of surrounding circumstances through the knowledge of standard books. He considered authorized lists of standard books especially valuable.

Miss Anthony, of the Packer Institute, urged that the sense of humor in young people should be appealed to and developed, and suggested that good cartoons, or a joke, accompanying a list of books would be sure to arouse interest in the list. Further discussion was prevented by the time for adjournment.

IRENE A. HACKETT, *Secretary pro tem.*

Library Schools and Training Classes.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH TRAINING SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN'S LIBRARIANS.

The entrance examinations for the coming year will be held on Tuesday, June 21. As heretofore, there will be two examinations, one in "History and general information," the other in "General literature."

MABEL A. FROTHINGHAM,
Secretary Training School.

LIBRARY APPRENTICE CLASS AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

During the academic year just closing the responsibility of the librarian of Columbia University has been extended to cover the administration of the libraries of all institutions affiliated with Columbia, as well as all department libraries. This places under general and unified supervision the collections of Columbia and all its departments of instruction, of Teachers' College (including the Horace Mann School and the Speyer School), of Barnard College, of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and of the College of Pharmacy.

It is possible, therefore, to grant extended

opportunities to those desiring to familiarize themselves with the various forms of library work and administration. Accordingly Columbia will receive five apprentices for the coming academic year, the apprentice-year to be 40 weeks in length. No formal entrance examination will be required, but preference will be given to those who are college-bred, and the minimum educational preparation must be at least the equivalent of two years' work in a college of approved standing. The work of the apprentice-year will be divided between the following departments: Order, Accounts and Accession; Cataloging and Classification, Periodicals and Binding, Loans, and general Bibliography. No compensation will be given other than the personal instruction, the opportunity to observe, the opportunity for practice-work under competent supervision, and the fact that, although no position is guaranteed, in selections for the staff of this library preference will naturally be given to those who have had this training and experience.

The work of apprentices will be under the general direction of Miss Harriet B. Prescott, supervisor of cataloging and classification, to whom all applications should be addressed. No specific forms are used, but letters should be in the handwriting of the applicant, and each should state full name and age, present address, permanent address, education (in some detail), and names and addresses of at least two references.

All applications must be filed before June 15. Selections will be announced by mail not later than July 1.

DREXEL INSTITUTE LIBRARY SCHOOL.

Miss Isadore Mudge, librarian of Bryn Mawr College, on March 10, addressed the class on "The use of public documents in the reference department of a public library."

Miss Frances J. Olcott, director of the Training School for Children's Librarians of the Carnegie Library, visited the school on March 16.

The picture bulletins made by the present class were exhibited in the library during the past month. They covered a wide range of subjects. Many of them were designed for children's rooms.

An exhibit of the art and illustrated books belonging to the library was held on March 26, when the most attractive books were placed on the tables and persons interested were invited to inspect them. A loan collection of foreign picture postal cards was also exhibited and attracted attention on account of their artistic excellence. The library possesses a large collection of art books, which are brought to the attention of readers by these occasional displays.

Miss Isabel Holston, class of '01, and Miss A. M. Surdam, class of '02, have been engaged as temporary catalogers by the Public Library of Paterson, N. J.

MINNESOTA SUMMER SCHOOL.

The Minnesota State Library Commission announces the fifth annual session of the summer school for library training, to be held at Minnesota State University, Minneapolis, from June 20 to July 29, 1904. The course is intended primarily to meet the needs of small public libraries which cannot afford trained librarians, and is open to all holding library positions, or under definite appointment to such positions, or to teachers in charge of school libraries. No entrance examinations are required. The course is under the direction of the librarian of the commission, Miss Clara F. Baldwin, who will give the lectures on author and title cataloging, classification, order, accession, shelf-list and the general organization of a library. Miss Maude van Buren, librarian of the Owatonna Public Library, and a graduate of Pratt Institute Library School, will give the lectures on bibliography, book-selection, periodicals, binding, reference work, children's work, subject cataloging, and the administration of a library. The special lectures on public documents will be given by J. I. Wyer, Jr., librarian of the University of Nebraska. Lectures of general interest will also be given by visiting librarians. Applications should be received before June 1 by Miss Clara F. Baldwin, Minnesota State Library Commission, Minneapolis, Minn.

PRATT INSTITUTE LIBRARY SCHOOL.

ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS.

The entrance examinations for Pratt Institute Library School will be held on June 17.

ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY SCHOOL.

Leaving Champaign on the morning train, April 6, 1904, 28 members of the senior library class started on the annual trip to Chicago for the purpose of visiting libraries and book binderies.

After a cordial welcome by Mr. Hild at the Chicago Public Library the party was divided into sections for its tour of inspection about the beautiful building. At Hull House in the afternoon Miss Starr gave a most interesting lecture on fine book binding illustrated by finished books and others in process of binding, after which dinner was served in the coffee house.

A practical lecture on library book binding was heard at the Newberry Library, and decoration of book covers with patterns inlaid in leather and the mounting of plates by inlaying were the chief attractions at Ringer & Hertzberg's bindery, while at Rand & McNally's the complete process of map making was shown as well as printing in color, folding, gathering, sewing, backing and casing in—all by machinery.

The staff at the John Crerar Library were found rejoicing over a decision which may give them a site for a building of their own on Michigan avenue near the Public Library.

The library of the School of Education, the new building for the law library and the management of travelling libraries sent to university extension centers were the chief points of interest at Chicago University. The Carnegie Library at Blue Island was especially interesting as a type of the library managed by but one person, with reference work and a children's department.

Among other libraries visited were the Virginia, Armour Institute, Evanston Public, Field Columbian Museum, Northwestern University and Scoville Institute.

Twelve of the party added one day to the trip as first planned in order to accept invitations to visit Joliet, Normal and Bloomington. Visits to the steel works club with its library especially for working men, and the state penitentiary from which each member of the party carried a remembrance in the shape of a catalog of the prison library, occupied the afternoon, and the time spent at Normal was all too short. The Bloomington Library was seen in the evening after a dinner given the party at the Illinois Hotel by the trustees of the library.

The whole trip was an especially delightful one and the class will hold in grateful remembrance all those whose kindness helped to make it so. GERTRUDE A. BUCK, '04.

Library Economy and History.

GENERAL.

The *Library Association Record* for April contains articles on "The selection of books for branch libraries," by Francis T. Barrett, and "Some points in practical bibliography," by Archibald Clarke; and a list of the "Best books of 1902" in Fine arts, by G. H. Palmer.

The *Library World* for April contains the eighth of Archibald Clarke's "Essays on indexing"; the Library Association syllabuses in library administration, library history and organization, and literary history; and the usual notes and news.

LOCAL.

Albert Lea (Minn.) F. P. L. The Carnegie library building was opened on the evening of April 15, when a public reception was held. On the next morning the routine work of the library was begun.

Boston P. L. The 50th anniversary of the opening of the circulation department of the library to public use, on May 2, 1854, was observed on Monday, May 2, when a general informal public reception was held in the evening from 8 to 10 o'clock. There was an attendance of several thousand persons, representative of nearly every race and every social class, the building was decorated with banners and laurel festoons, and there was music by the Symphony Orchestra. The

reception committee included Mayor Collins, the president and members of the library board, and the librarian, Mr. Wadlin.

Brooklyn (N. Y.) P. L. (6th rpt.—year ending Dec. 31, 1903.) Added 52,008; total 207,660. "To this should be added 163,760 volumes and 19,017 pamphlets, which came to us by the absorption of the Brooklyn Library, making a grand total of 371,420 volumes, and 19,017 pamphlets. Of the number purchased, about 3000 were in French, German, Spanish and Italian." Issued, home use 1,614,437 (fict. 68%, of which juv. fiction was 24%). No. borrowers 50,249. Expenditures from city appropriation \$206,700 (salaries \$103,853.50; books \$50,118.29; supplies \$22,285.48; papers and periodicals \$4789.77; binding \$8162.96; rent \$17,490).

These brief statistics represent inadequately the varied activities and great development that marked this year in the history of the library. Only an unsatisfactory summary of the work accomplished can be given here, but the report should be read in full, as a most interesting presentation of the processes of organization of a great city library. Naturally the most important event of the year was the consolidation of the Brooklyn Library and the Public Library, effected on July 6. The work of reorganization of the collection for public use was carried through with remarkable rapidity and the library was opened as a branch on Sept. 1, with a membership of 900 borrowers, comprising its former permanent and life membership—a number that in four months had grown to 7135. "The time will undoubtedly come, and in the near future, when the Montague branch will be the reference library of the system and its collection of popular books be moved to a separate building."

By purchase 56,120 volumes were secured at a cost of \$50,118.29. "The average per volume, 89 cents, is very low, and is noteworthy because of the number of expensive books in the list; i.e., high-priced if purchased in the open market at ruling rates." It is explained that in several cases opportunity was found of purchasing books in large quantities—notably one single purchase of a bookseller's complete stock of over 8000 volumes—all but 400 of which proved available for distribution among the branches—409 volumes from another dealer, and purchases from dealers who made special discounts on large sales.

The library system now includes 20 branches and the administration building at 26 Brevoort place; a new branch at Sheepshead Bay was opened during the year, and the delivery station in the Ridgewood district was opened as the Ridgewood branch. A store on Fulton street was leased for use as a storeroom for less used government documents and for the stock of duplicates. An inventory of all the books belonging to the branches showed a loss of

3225 books. The circulation throughout the system showed an increase of 24 per cent. over the previous year. The library force now numbers 173 persons.

In referring to the work in progress upon the Carnegie branches, Mr. Hill renews his recommendation for a great central building. "The purchase of books for the Carnegie buildings," it is explained, "will come out of a special appropriation to be made by the Board of Estimate and not out of the annual appropriation set aside for the use of the book committee."

Constant effort has been made to improve the efficiency and develop *esprit de corps* of the staff. Monthly meetings of branch librarians and superintendents of departments are held with the chief librarian, and special instruction to assistants is given by the superintendents of the children's department and the cataloging department. "The branch librarians are encouraged to be as independent as such a large system will permit, and while there is not the same opportunity as in a small library, still there is more freedom given to branch librarians in the Brooklyn Public Library than in almost any other system in the country." A scheme of civil service within the library has been worked out, in accordance with which examinations are held and the various grades of service classified.

Mr. Hill's report is followed by the reports of the several heads of departments, summarized reports of librarians-in-charge of the branches, and detailed statistics. The reports of the superintendents of departments deserve special attention. For the Department of Branches and Apprentices, Miss Frances B. Hawley gives a clear, practical and suggestive summary of work undertaken and planned, mainly in connection with appointments and promotions in the service. It is interesting to observe that in the examinations held for promotion, "of the library school graduates who competed, 58 per cent. passed; of the graduates of the apprentice system since it became an organized department, 38 per cent. passed; of the graduates of the unorganized apprentice classes, 12 per cent. passed." The work of the apprentice class is described in detail, and it is recommended that but one class a year should be held hereafter, and that class instruction and practical work be combined more effectively than heretofore. The report of the children's department, by Miss Clara W. Hunt, opens with a sensible and earnest statement of "what the department aims to stand for," and reviews the work done in training assistants for work with children. The class formed for this purpose has met every two weeks, and the enthusiastic devotion to the work is increasingly evident. Miss Hitchler's report of the work of the cataloging department gives evidence of great activity and excellent organization. The preparation of the Montague collection for general

circulation within two months was a *tour de force*, requiring remarkable energy and executive ability, and there has been a steady development in "time saving devices," which it is pointed out are imperative if the department is to "cope successfully with the problem of keeping 20 new branches constantly supplied with new books and at the same time to make their old possessions more available." The cataloging force was increased during the year from 19 to 24, and the daily average of cataloging new accessions is given as "from 15 to 21 volumes per assistant—an average, which, as has been ascertained from comparative statistics, is not surpassed in any other library." Besides the volume of current work to be handled by this department there is to be carried through the reclassification, re-cataloging and renumbering of the entire Montague collection, toward which the reorganization previous to its opening was but a first step. Instruction in cataloging has been given by the superintendent to branch librarians and assistants and to two apprentice classes. For the details of the work of the book order department, the travelling libraries and the individual branches, all of which are worthy of attention, reference must be made to the report itself.

At a meeting of the trustees on April 19 a resolution was adopted "that a committee of seven, together with the ex-officio members of the board of trustees be appointed to consider the question of a site for a central building, and to ask the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to furnish such a site. It was voted that the salary of the reference librarian, for which appointment has not yet been made, be fixed at not more than \$2500 a year. The chief librarian was granted two months leave of absence for a trip to Europe in the summer, in the interests of the library, with an appropriation of \$1500 for expenses.

Camden (N. J.) P. L. Plans for the \$100,000 Carnegie library building were accepted by the trustees on March 30, the successful architects being Hale & Morse, of Philadelphia.

Concord (Mass.) F. P. L. (31st rpt.—year ending Jan. 31, 1904.) Added 863; total 34,423. Issued, home use 33,766.

"During the year a legacy of \$10,000, for the general purposes of the library, given in the will of Mr. William Munroe, having become payable, was received by the corporation."

Weekly delivery service of books to the West Concord School, begun last year, has been continued, 3198 v. having been distributed, or an average of 84 per week.

Covington (Ky.) P. L. The beautiful Carnegie building was opened on March 16. It cost in all over \$100,000, of which \$85,000 was given by Andrew Carnegie in successive sums of \$40,000, \$35,000 and \$10,000. The library

has a membership of about 8000 persons and contains nearly 15,000 volumes.

Detroit (Mich.) P. L. (39th rpt., 1903.) Added 9409; total 186,449. Issued, home use 518,354 (fict. 57.70%; juv. 16.13%), of which 82,225 were issued through the three branches, and 81,107 through the schools. New cards issued 7237; cards in use 33,778. Receipts \$75,510.34; expenses \$51,835.84 (books \$2807.31; subscriptions \$1867.08; binding and repair \$4500.53; salaries, library staff \$25,314.31; salaries, janitors \$3859.49.)

The trustees' report makes special reference to Mr. Carnegie's offer of a fund for branch libraries, still unaccepted, and makes a strong plea for compliance with the conditions imposed. Greater freedom of access to the shelves is recommended, and additional branches are needed. It is pointed out that the expenditure for books "is ridiculously small for a city the size of Detroit; . . . we should expend at least twice as much annually."

Mr. Utley, in noting the accessions of the year, says: "One consideration which has an important bearing on the purchase of books is the increased cost of all new books, resulting from the organization of publishers and book-sellers. Our new books are costing about 20 per cent. more than formerly. With the purchasing power of our funds reduced to so great an extent the problem of keeping up the supply of new books becomes a very serious one to the taxpayers."

The effect of the branches has been to diminish the circulation at the main library—particularly in the children's department. There was a notable increase in the number of cardholders, "due largely to the activity of the branches."

In the central library "the plan of giving the general public free access to all the fiction was put into practical effect on the 1st of July. This was done by removing the exit turnstile to the extreme south end of the department. This opens seven alcoves, in place of the two formerly accessible to the public. The whole fiction class, including German and French as well as English, can now be examined at leisure by readers. If a place can be provided, it is quite desirable to add also the Polish books to the free access collection. It is needless to say that the scheme is a popular one. It appears also to be in the interest of better reading. We find that if people may choose their books by examination of them, they show a disposition to make better selections than if their choice is limited to the printed catalog and to the authors whom they have read or of whom they happen to have heard. Before opening the alcoves a general overhauling was had, and many of the out-of-date books which modern readers would never look at were culled out and shelved by themselves. They are still in our catalogs,

and may be given out if asked for, but the calls are practically very rare."

In the children's department the previous age limit of 12 years was suspended at the librarian's discretion. Saturday afternoon talks to children were given, and proved most successful.

Eau Claire (Wis.) P. L. The \$40,000 Carnegie library building was formally opened on the evening of April 21, the chief speaker of the occasion being Dr. E. A. Birge, of the University of Wisconsin.

Fairhaven, Mass. Millicent L. (Rpt.—year ending Dec. 31, 1903.) Added 875; total 16,912. Issued, home use 50,882 (fict., incl. juv. fict., 58.5%). New cards issued 496; total registration 1842. "Of the 3250 residents of Fairhaven over 11 years of age, 1484, or 45.6% are registered borrowers; a per cent. hardly surpassed in the country."

"Non-fiction privileges have been extended so that any reasonable number of books on any subject may be borrowed at one time on a single card. The appreciation which this and the following change evoked are most gratifying. . . . Reserving, which is done without charge and on all classes of books, is very commonly practiced, but it has not seemed to meet the needs of a considerable number of readers. For their benefit, and that of the general public, several of the copies of a popular title are no longer subjected to reserves; they are stamped 'This copy not to be reserved,' and come in and go out to the first fortunate borrower. The remaining copies, one-half or three-fifths of the total number, are reserved in the usual manner. The plan works well."

Instruction in the use of books was given, in the form of six talks, to pupils in the eighth and ninth school grades. "The subjects considered were:

- "1. The book itself: (1) its makeup. *a.* Paper. *b.* Printing. *c.* Binding; (2) aids to its use. *a.* Title-page. *b.* Contents. *c.* Index.
2. Classification of books according to subject; Decimal classification; notation—class and book numbers; location of classes on shelves.
3. Catalog: use of card catalog (dictionary).
4. Reference books: characterization and methods of consulting.
5. Bibliography: directions for and practice in the making of simple lists on subjects connected with school work.

"To test the information gained from these talks, pupils of the ninth grade made lists of material in the library on Longfellow's 'Evangeline,' the 'French Reign of Terror' and the 'Landing of the Pilgrims.' The results were gratifying, for of a class of 40, 20 pupils presented excellent lists and 11 others fair ones.

"During July and August 24 pupils of grammar school age received certificates for reading and reviewing satisfactorily to a library attendant at least five of a prescribed list of

80 worth-while books. Two pupils read 26 each and received prizes of books."

Fanwood (N. J.) P. L. What the state commission notes as "probably the smallest free public library in New Jersey under municipal control" has recently been opened in the borough of Fanwood, about 20 miles from New York city. This tiny library, which all told contains less than 800 volumes, has its home in a bright, attractive room in the village post office. It is to be open each afternoon, for one hour following the chief mail delivery of the day, the local postmistress acting as librarian.

Through the enterprise of some of the members of the local book club the library has now been regularly incorporated under the state law of April 2, 1890, which secures for it about \$75 annually. The library also received from the state commission the sum of \$100—the board having previously secured an equal amount. The books purchased with this sum, together with those received from the book club, form the nucleus of what bids fair to be a very excellent little library. It is true that the selection leaves much to be desired, and that its proportion of light reading would be something of a shock to the more serious minded, but these are faults which may be remedied and doubtless under its present management books will hereafter be so judiciously selected as to make it in this respect, as it is in organization and equipment, a little model library. For here there is nothing to criticize adversely. The organizer was practically given *carte blanche* by the board to organize the library according to the best library methods. Being thus unhampered by the limiting conditions of small economies that boards in such cases usually feel it necessary to impose, she has been enabled to produce thoroughly good results. The tiny dictionary card-catalog is a model in every respect, while the card shelf-list and accession records show equal care. It is classified by the Dewey system, the Cutter three-figure tables having been used for numbering. The Browne charging system was chosen.

The work of organizing was done by Miss Adèle Hope Kirby, whose library training was received in the Public Library of Plainfield, N. J., where she now serves as substitute. E. L. A.

Gloversville (N. Y.) F. L. (Rpt., 1903.) Added 1128; total 22,073. Issued, home use 68,407; lib. use 7251. New cards issued 435. "The pupils of the common schools have used 14,056 books, those from the high school 5062. The teachers have drawn 873 volumes, 443 of which have been for use in the school room, 165 volumes have been used by the different study clubs." Appended to the report is the usual classed list of the year's accessions.

Laconia (N. H.) P. L. (Rpt.—year ending Jan. 31, 1904.) This is practically a re-

port of organization, covering the installation of the library in the new Gale Memorial building, which was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies on June 9, 1903. Mr. Davis, the librarian, says: "The contrast between present conditions and those of one year ago is very great, but there is much yet to be done before the library can reach the highest stage of efficiency. Then the books were stored in poorly lighted rooms where they were exposed to great risk of loss by fire. They were not classified or cataloged in such a manner as to be readily available. No new books had been bought for several years, and many of the old ones were unfit for circulation. There were no facilities for study or investigation. There were no periodicals. Books were issued only on two afternoons and evenings in a week. There was no card catalog. Children under 12 years of age could not have cards in their own names. Visitors could not draw books. Students could only obtain one book at a time."

"The library is now open to the public from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and from 7 to 9 p.m. every day except Sundays and holidays. The books are safe from fire. A well-lighted and attractive reading room is supplied with 76 periodicals. A quiet study room is provided with a nucleus for a modern reference library. A card catalog is being prepared that will show the resources of the library on any subject. Non-fiction cards enable borrowers to draw two books at a time, while students who really need more may obtain them. Any child who can write his name may have a card. Visitors may enjoy all the privileges of the library."

There are estimated to be about 10,620 v. in the library, of which 752 were added during the year. From August 3 to Dec. 31, 11,960 v. were issued for home use, and there are 1027 registered borrowers.

Lancaster (Mass.) Town L. (41st rpt., 1903-1904.) Added 866; total 31,449. Issued, home use 12,847 (fict. .559%). New registration 119; total registration 1439. Receipts \$2112.03; expenses \$2112.03 (books \$685.26; periodicals \$132.35; binding \$185.58; salaries \$757.05).

There was a circulation through the school collections of 3005 v. Miss Virginia Keyes was appointed librarian during the year, after a year's service as acting librarian, succeeding Miss Wood, resigned on account of ill health.

An extension of ordinary privileges has been made for students or persons engaged in any line of study, in permitting the withdrawal at one time of as many books as are needed, to be kept as long as needed. "This privilege is subject to two conditions. The books must be renewed either by postal card or in person at the end of three weeks, and the librarian reserves the right to recall them at any time if needed for reference, the books to be returned to the borrower as soon as pos-

sible. It is believed that this plan has been very helpful to a number of our readers."

Thirteen picture exhibitions were held during the year.

Library of Congress, Washington, D. C. The report of the Librarian of Congress, for the year ending June 30, 1903, previously noted in *L. J.*, March, p. 134, has appeared in regular form, as a cloth bound octavo volume of 600 pages.

Malden (Mass.) P. L. (26th rpt.—year ending Dec. 31, 1903.) Added 2754; total 44,228. Issued, home use 128,034 (fict. 74.65 %); lib. use 8939; school use 12,426. Total cards in use 16,179. Receipts \$24,922.96; expenses \$22,609.83, of which \$3522.08 were for books, \$5047.27 for salaries, \$619.46 binding; investment of Syfferman memorial fund \$8000.

By the will of the late Mrs. Kate L. S. Hoyle the library received a bequest of \$8000 for the establishment of a permanent fund for the purchase of books, to be known as the Syfferman memorial fund, in remembrance of the giver's two sons. The will of the late Mrs. Mary Diana Converse also bequeathes \$15,000 to the library as a permanent fund for the purchase of works of art.

Mansfield (O.) Memorial L. Assoc. (16th rpt.—year ending Dec. 31, 1903.) Added 405; total 10,770. Issued, home use 43,043 (fict. 23.931; juv. 79.38). New cards issued 710; total cards in use 4930. Receipts \$2527.37; expenses \$2343.50 (salaries \$1376.35, books \$359.59, magazines \$112.85).

Notable in the year's record was the offer of Andrew Carnegie to give \$35,000 for a library building, on the usual conditions, which has been duly accepted by the city council. The only change in the library arrangements was the conversion of the trustees' room into a room for the juvenile books. It is "attractive, well lighted, every book in plain sight and on low shelves, but the objection, and a serious one, is that during busy hours of the day it is not possible for either librarian or assistant to remain in the room with the children, as both are needed in the main library. Thus the young readers who need to be advised, guided and directed in their choice of books, must be left to select at random. There are days when the librarian finds it possible to stay with the children, and the increase at such times in numbers of books drawn, but particularly in the line of histories, travel and nature books, shows what could be done with a real children's room with an attendant in charge versed in the best young people's literature and with the shelves filled with books from the long lists waiting to be purchased for this department"

Melrose (Mass.) P. L. The Carnegie library building was dedicated on April 15. Mr. Carnegie's gift for the purpose was \$25,-

000, to which a fund of \$7000 was added by local subscription.

Middleboro (Mass.) P. L. The beautiful library building, built from the \$50,000 bequest of the late Thomas S. Peirce, was opened to the public on April 25, when a reception was held in the afternoon and evening; the routine work was begun on the following day. The organization of the library in its new building has been carried through by Miss Mary P. Farr.

Milton (Mass.) P. L. (33d rpt.—year ending Dec. 31, 1903.) Added 892; total 13,589. Issued, home use 51,073. New cards issued 258; total cardholders 1893.

Besides the main library, there are three reading rooms which are also deposit and delivery stations, weekly house-to-house deliveries of books are made in the more distant districts, and deposit collections are sent to schools and the Convalescent Home.

"The chief event of the past year is the practical completion of the new library building," erected from a town appropriation of \$50,000, and funds secured by private subscription.

The total cost "will not be over \$71,000, provided for, as above indicated, \$50,000 by bond issue of the town and \$21,000 by contributions of individual citizens."

Milwaukee (Wis.) P. L. (26th rpt.—year ending Sept. 30, 1903.) Added 14,962; total 145,781. Issued, home use 545,466 (fict. 35.7 %; juv. fict. 29.4 %). New registration 13,500; cards in use 26,731. Receipts \$89,112.87; expenses \$59,807.44 (books \$14,870.17, newspapers and periodicals \$1224.95, salaries \$33,908.03).

"During the year 27,657 books were issued 143,037 times by 392 teachers in 45 graded public schools, 1 state normal school, 3 high schools, 1 school for the deaf, 5 parochial schools, 12 Sunday-schools and 1 vacation school."

Nashville, Tenn. Carnegie L. (2d rpt.—year ending Dec. 31, 1903.) Added 5575; total 23,270. Issued, home use 73,940 (fict. 53.031). New cards issued 1520; total cards in use 6945. Receipts \$10,706.82 (\$10,000 city appropriation); expenses \$10,120 (books \$4324.90, salaries \$3062.50, binding \$372.75).

An interesting report, showing effective work and enthusiasm in preparing the library for its occupancy of the new Carnegie building. "This preparation has involved not only the continued labor of shelf-listing and cataloging the volumes of the previous library collection and the complete cataloging of a large number of new books purchased during the year, but also the more perfect systematizing of the departmental work, with the necessary training and discipline, to meet the requirements of the greater business expected when the new building is occupied."

The most important gift of the year was

the bequest of the private library of the late Dr. George T. Coit, amounting to 497 books and 340 magazines. An effort is being made to secure as large a collection as possible of books relating to Tennessee and the South, and works by Tennessee and Southern authors. The publication of a catalog or finding list is recommended.

A beginning toward systematic work with the schools has been made, in the provision of a special collection of suitable books for parallel reading and reference by school children, and the purchase of 1600 volumes of selected books for supplementary reading in the several grades from the first to the eighth inclusive. The books are sent out as traveling libraries, 160 books to the box, in eight sets of 20 volumes each; they are the property of the library, under supervision of the librarian, and are returned to the library every six weeks for inspection. "This step in library-school work is in advance of any other southern library."

New York City, Gen. Soc. of Mechanics and Tradesmen. (118th rpt.—year ending Dec. 31, 1903.) Total 99,188 v.; additions not given. Issued, home use 90,569 (fict. 66,515); ref. use 7206. Visitors to reading room 36,497, of whom 8332 were women.

"There was a loss of nine volumes during the year as against 23 for the previous year. The average attendance upon the reading room was 200 per day, as compared with 189 for the previous year. Distribution of duplicate inactive books by gift was continued, 3900 volumes having been distributed."

Owing to the enlargement of the building, for which Andrew Carnegie gave \$250,000, it was necessary to change the arrangement of the stacks, and close the reading room for five months. The development of the library has also been restricted by "the decision of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to withdraw all aid from this library and to concentrate the same in the systems now under the control of the New York Free Library [which] puts upon this society the entire burden for the maintenance of this department. This will make necessary a revision of our methods of operation."

New York P. L. Recent thefts of valuable books from the Astor and Lenox library buildings resulted in the arrest on April 7 of a man believed to be concerned, with several others, in a systematic effort to rob libraries in New York city. The man was traced through a pen and ink sketch made by Mr. V. H. Paltsits, of the Lenox Library, of a suspicious visitor to that library who had called for and examined various first editions and other valuable books. Warnings were sent to the various book dealers, and the suspect was arrested at the bookstore of Everett & Francis, in 23d street, where he had endeavored to dispose of a vol-

ume of Livingston's "American book prices current," which it was found had been stolen from the Montague branch of the Brooklyn Public Library. The thief was sentenced to a year in the state prison on May 6.

New York Society L. The library observed the 150th anniversary of its incorporation, in 1754, by an exhibition of fine art books and rare and valuable maps, newspapers and books, held in its building, 109 University Place, from April 26 to May 6.

The most interesting feature of the exhibition was the collection of books of the first "Publick Library" of New York. Most of these volumes were received through the Rev. John Sharpe. The "proposals" submitted by Mr. Sharpe in 1713 to the secretary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in London, printed from the manuscript in the library of Lambeth Palace, call for "a school, a library, and a catechizing chappell" as the greatest needs of New York. He adds: "There is hardly anything which is more wanted in this country than learning, there being no place I know of in America, where it is either less encouraged or regarded. The City is so conveniently Situated for Trade and the Genius of the people so inclined to merchandise, that they generally seek no other Education for their children than writing and Arithmetick, so that letters must be in a manner forced upon them not only without their seeking, but against their consent, and there is no doubt but as the youth are very Ingenious, Subtile and of quick Capacities, it would in a short time gain upon their inclinations."

Regulations for the library provide that it should be "publick and provincial and to be open every day in the week at convenient hours. That any person borrowing a book shall be obliged to deposit a certain sum of money which shall exceed the value of it, and in case the book is not restored at the limited time, this money to be forfeited to buy another. That no book shall be lent for a longer term than a year where the distance is greatest." It is also recommended that "In this Library, may be copies of the Catalogues of the several parochial Library's that where the publick may be deficient the studios may be supplied elsewhere."

Of the books of the first Publick Library about 200 volumes are still in the possession of the library. About 75 of these were shown, the smaller volumes in a case, the folios and large quartos on a stand. They were almost entirely theological, and mainly in Latin—polemical dissertations, sermons, commentaries, etc. Among them were the *Chronicles of St. Antoninus*, Archbishop of Florence, the *Opera of the great Chancellor Gerson*, St. Thomas Aquinas, the *Venerable Bede*, and Bernard of Clairvaux; "Homalarius doctorum," 1498; the "Sententiarium" of Peter Lombard, 1510; and Rev. Thomas Edwards's

"The casting down of the last and strongest hold of Satan," 1647. Almost the only non-theological works shown in the case were a small volume of Virgil and Sir Walter Raleigh's "History of the world." The list of these books, given in Sharpe's "proposals," includes titles in history and other subjects, but apparently the volumes in theology were best adapted to escape hard usage and survive the centuries.

Among the other features of the exhibit were the only known numbers of Bradford's *New York Gazette*, the first newspaper published in New York, for 1726. An interesting collection of early catalogs and reports of the library, with imprints of Gaine and Franklin; a copy of the first United States census of 1790; the William Bradford copy of the New York laws and statutes (1691); and the Bakewell view of New York in 1746 were also shown. The art works, from the John C. Green collection, included older and more recent volumes devoted to the great galleries, cathedrals, artists and collections; Audubon's "Birds of America," first edition; Piranesi's works; the "Antiquities of the Russian Empire," published by Nicholas I.; the two volumes of the Wallace collection, etc.; and photogravures and engravings from the portfolio volumes of Cole and other engravers and artists.

Newark (N. J.) F. P. L. A loan exhibition of the collection of etchings and engravings owned by the Right Rev. Monsignor George H. Doane, of Newark, was opened in the library art gallery on Saturday, April 16, to continue for two weeks. The exhibition included 104 items and many striking and representative examples; an excellent catalog, giving brief explanations of the various processes—etching, engraving, mezzotint, and lithography—was issued by the library. For the first week the attendance was estimated at nearly 5000 persons.

An exhibition illustrating the Elizabethan age in pictures was held for two weeks in March. The pictures dealt with Queen Elizabeth and the men, manners, historic events, castles, cathedrals, dwellings and costumes of her time. They were taken from the collection which has been growing for the past year or two in the library; the illustrations for this collection, gathered from many sources, and covering hundreds of subjects, are carefully sorted according to topic, placed in plainly marked manila paper folders, and lent freely for school, club or personal use.

Recent lists issued by the library include a small folder giving the names of persons or characters famous in history or legend, with the suggestion that "All children should meet and learn to know these people"; and a mimeographed list of "The hundred most eminent persons of all time," based on the record of the thousand most eminent persons, compiled by Professor Cattell, of Columbia.

A statement by the trustees setting forth the needs of the library was published in the *Newark Sunday Call* for April 3. These are noted as larger book funds, provision for substations, small branches and reading rooms, and a printed catalog—all of which are dependent upon an increased income. It is pointed out that "during the last year the library lent 20 per cent. more books than it did the year before, and more than it has in any previous year. It had more visitors to its reading room and newspaper room. It had small branches in 150 schoolrooms in the city. It furnished accommodations for 39 different organizations, educational, literary, charitable, etc., who held 261 meetings in unassigned rooms. It held two notable exhibitions of fine paintings, an exhibition of drawings by the architects of New Jersey and an exhibition of the manual training and sewing work of the public schools, with a total attendance of over 100,000 persons. Work like that above briefly outlined cannot stand still. The growth of the library in usefulness and use, both in the lending of books and in other directions, is going steadily on and will continue, keeping up with the normal growth of demand, unless checked by a too restricted income." The statement concludes with an appeal that the city council increase the library appropriation by "the income of one-twelfth of a mill, or half of that which under the statute it can grant us."

Newton, Kan. Carnegie L. The \$16,000 Carnegie library building was opened on April 18.

Niagara Falls (N. Y.) P. L. The handsome Carnegie library building was formally opened on the evening of April 13, when a public reception was held attended by at least a thousand persons. For the building Mr. Carnegie gave the sum of \$50,000, and \$3000 for equipment was provided by the city, in addition to the required annual appropriation of \$7000. It is about 100 feet long by 75 feet in depth, in the Greek style of architecture and severely plain, built of Indiana limestone, Roman pressed brick and terra cotta. Entrance is through a rotunda 22 feet square, finished in white marble with a stained glass dome. In the basement is a room fitted up for the Niagara Frontier Historical Society, and an assembly room with a seating capacity of about 200. The delivery room, on the first floor, is 22 feet square, with marble wainscoting and a colored glass ceiling skylight. It is arranged to permit free access to the stacks, with turnstiles and a central delivery desk. On either side of the delivery room are the reading rooms, one for children and one for adults, each 27 x 36 feet in size and 18 feet high, completely equipped. A conversation room, also to be used for trustees' meetings, librarian's office, work and cloak rooms are also provided. Back of the delivery room is

the stack room, with a radial stack, two-storied, with a present capacity of about 15,000 volumes. Heating, ventilating, and interior decoration and finish are all regarded as most satisfactory.

Northfield, Minn. Carleton College L. The report of Miss Sabra L. Nason, assistant librarian, upon the work of the library for 1903, is the first report of any length that has been made to the trustees of the college. It covers much more than the history of the past year, giving a review of the history and growth of the collection, based upon "librarians' reports, such as could be found, from references made in the college catalogs, which have been very meagre," and from members of the faculty. The beginning of the library was made in 1869 when a collection of 550 v. is mentioned; the number of volumes at present is given as 17,381; and the book funds amount to about \$15,000, the income of which is used each year for book purchases. The present library building, given by Mrs. James W. Scoville and her son as a memorial to James W. Scoville, costing \$25,000, was opened in 1896. "Before 1883 there had been no regular system of classification used, but at that time Prof. Cooper introduced the Dewey system. Records were kept in an accession book, and the library was placed in good working order. In 1898 the Cutter author-mark was added to the books in the largest classes as the library had outgrown the old book number. This work has been continued until now nearly all the books are numbered with the Dewey-Cutter combination.

"One of the most valuable services ever rendered the library was that of Prof. Daniel Magnus, in the collection of the German and Scandinavian libraries. The first Scandinavian accessions are dated April, 1890, and that department has grown until it now numbers 665 volumes. Not only did Prof. Magnus contribute generously of his own money for this purpose, and raise the remainder among his friends, but he put much care and labor into the selection of the books, and then classified and labelled them. The German library also was largely obtained through funds raised by Mr. Magnus, and it is undoubtedly one of the best selected libraries in that language in this part of the country. Nearly all of it was classified and accessioned in 1897 and this work also was done by Mr. Magnus. Few appreciate the value of it and the labor it has cost. By some oversight it has not yet been mentioned in the library announcements or college catalogs. It numbers at present 475 volumes, many of them beautifully bound in half morocco."

In reviewing present conditions, Miss Nason refers especially to the loss of books, "due partly to our open shelf system, but still more to an unsatisfactory charging system and to

lack of a sufficient number of assistants," and recommends the installation of a new charging system, with provision for keeping some one constantly at the desk. Of the entire collection less than one and one-third per cent. is fiction. During the year 869 "dead" books in the class of religion were removed from the stack room to the basement, where they were placed in class order and can be readily found whenever called for. The renumbering of the collection was carried on, about 1000 volumes only remaining, so that by the end of the present year "the entire library will be in the most approved order. The purchase during the past year of printed catalog cards from the Library of Congress for our current accessions is the beginning of a great improvement in our card catalog system. We have in our present catalog 15 varieties of hand writing and typewriting with as many differences in wording, and in all but very few subject cards. Our purpose is to replace the cards as fast as funds and time will permit, and make a much more complete subject catalog, though it will take a few years to accomplish this result."

Philadelphia F. L. "Chestnut street, Philadelphia, descriptive, reminiscent, sentimental," is the title of a little anonymous volume, "by an ex-reporter," recently published. It devotes several pages to the library—"a thoroughly popular, wide-open, absolutely untrammelled free library"—noting the different departments, and adds: "Some day we shall have a handsome new library, and some of us will be sorry. The present location is admirable; the associations of old Concert Hall are precious; the unpretending character of the accommodations is most agreeable, the noise of Chestnut street in no way objectionable; the recitation and singing of the parish school in the rear are a pretty contribution. Shall we, all of us, most of us, be quite as comfortable, as much at our ease, in more elegant quarters? I fear not." These sentiments are flattering, but it may be doubted if they are fully shared by the library authorities and their staff.

Pine Hill, Ulster County, N. J. The Henry and Clara W. Morton Memorial Library was opened in March in the little mountain village of Pine Hill, with its 400 inhabitants. The village was the summer home of the late Dr. Henry Morton, the former president of Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, and shortly after the death of Mrs. Morton, over two years ago, Dr. Morton set aside \$5000 for a library building to be erected as a memorial to his wife. The ground had not been broken when Dr. Morton was himself taken with the illness that resulted in his death. His two sons Henry S. and Quincy then carried out the project, making it a joint memorial to their parents instead of to their mother alone. The building cost \$7000 instead of \$5000, as

originally planned. It is colonial in style, of native blue stone, with a red slate roof and trimmings of Indiana limestone. The library contains about 2000 books, about 1500 of which were given by Dr. Morton from its opening in 1897 until his death. It will be maintained entirely by the Messrs. Morton.

Rockland (Me.) P. L. The Carnegie library building was dedicated on April 25. Mr. Carnegie's gift was \$120,000, and site and equipment cost \$10,000 additional.

Santa Cruz (Cal.) P. L. The Carnegie library building was opened on the evening of April 14 with elaborate exercises. The building cost \$20,000, exclusive of equipment, and contains about 14,000 volumes. It is in the mission style of architecture, built of sandstone with a concrete foundation.

Smithsonian Institution L., Washington, D. C. (Rpt.; in report of S. P. Langley, secretary, etc., p. 85-88.) Added 27,313, of which "the equivalent of 9200 octavo volumes" were sent direct to the Library of Congress. To the Library of Congress were also sent "a large number of the scientific series bearing upon the work of the institution," estimated at about 6680 octavo volumes. The culling out of these sets, checking, and making memoranda for their completion has taken much time. "The policy of increasing the library by exchange has been continued; 265 periodicals were added to the receipts and 239 defective serials were either completed or partly completed."

"The section of the library devoted to books of a popular nature for the use of the employees has been used more than ever. The success of the sending of a number of books to the Zoological Park once a month has more than repaid the trouble taken, and 575 books were sent out in the course of the year. There are now 1413 volumes on the shelves of the library and 2946 books were borrowed during the year.

"Gen. John Watts de Peyster has continued to add to his already large collection of books and pamphlets relating to Napoleon Bonaparte, and through his munificence many rare volumes have come to enrich the library of the Institution."

"As Congress failed to appropriate money for the representation of the United States on the International Catalogue of Scientific Literature, the Smithsonian Institution again carried on the work, though with a sum quite insufficient for the needs and the necessary help. A larger amount has been allotted for the coming year, which will enable the Institution to do the work more thoroughly, and will also make it possible to fill in the gaps left in the reference to the literature of 1901." During the year 14,480 references were furnished to the central bureau, 6150 being for the literature of 1901 and 8330 for literature of 1902. There are now 99 subscriptions to

the catalog in the United States, 62 being for complete, 37 for partial, sets.

Springfield (Mass.) City L. A serious fire, which for a time threatened the destruction of the library, broke out on the afternoon of April 6, causing a loss estimated at from \$3000 to \$10,000, mainly in damage done by water to the books, the injury to the building being estimated at not more than \$1500. The chief damage was done to the David A. Wells economic library and the collection of government documents, which were located almost directly beneath the hottest of the fire. The third floor was closed for some days after the fire to allow it to dry out completely, for the books to be looked over and repaired and for the insurance to be adjusted. Fortunately the fire was confined almost entirely to the roof on the north side of the building.

U. S. Navy Dept., Libraries for war vessels. (Rpt., 1903.)

"The sum of \$30,000 was expended during the year in the purchase of new books for issue to ships; the total number of books distributed, including government publications, was about 30,000.

"Libraries are supplied to all vessels of the Navy containing available space for the location of suitable cases. The number of books provided depends upon the complement of officers and men, and their selection is carefully made with a view of supplying only the best literature of the day. The fact that the books turned into store, when a ship goes out of commission, are generally much worn by legitimate use, testifies to the appreciation of those libraries on shipboard." 13,989 v. were supplied to ships' libraries and 9750 v. to crews' libraries, the number of volumes ranging from 28 to each of twelve vessels like the *Bainbridge*, *Hull* and *Worden*, to 1500 each to the *Columbia*, *Dixie*, *Franklin*, *Minneapolis* and *Wabash*.

Virginia State L., Richmond. The recently appointed state librarian, Mr. J. P. Kennedy, reports upon the efforts now being made to develop library efficiency in the state, through the state library. A bill was passed by the last legislature (senate bill 73), amending and re-enacting previous laws relating to the state library, and providing for exchanges, through the library, of Virginia state publications, and for inter-library loans "with the Library of Congress and other libraries which grant a like privilege to the Virginia state library;" organizing the five directors of the library as a "library board," and making the management of the law library separate, under the supreme court of appeals; and authorizing the addition to the library staff of an assistant librarian and a stenographer, and the employment of "such expert catalogers as may be necessary to properly classify and catalog the contents of the library." The inter-library loan system has been introduced, and it is

planned to send out travelling libraries in a very short time. Mr. Kennedy says: "We are at present classifying our collection of 100,000 books and pamphlets, and have adopted the classification used in the Library of Congress. This work will continue to engage our attention for three years, at which time we will have reason to be proud of the institution." He adds: "The position of librarian in the Virginia State Library is a new office, being created by the recent constitutional convention. The elimination of politics as applied to this office is the best step ever taken by the state of Virginia in the interest of libraries. Heretofore the library was an institution for the classes instead of the masses. As an indication of this I may cite the old law as not permitting the circulation of a single book beyond the limits of the city of Richmond."

Weymouth, Mass. Tufts L. (25th rpt., 1903.) Added 696; total not given. Issued, home use 52,784 (fict., incl. juv. fict. .711%). New registration 306; total registration 4711. Receipts \$4544.99; expenses \$3924.44, of which \$577.35 were for books, \$1353.35 for salaries, \$201 for transportation and distribution of books, and \$95.15 for binding.

Boxes of 25 or 30 books are sent every two months to seven of the more remote public schools.

Wilmington (Del.) Institute F. L. On Feb. 12 the Wilmington Institute Free Library completed its 10th year as a public library. A few facts contrasting the library to-day with the institute as a proprietary library may prove of interest. Ten years ago it possessed less than 20,000 books; to-day its collection exceeds 50,000 volumes. On Jan. 1, 1894, its membership was 621; to-day more than 27,000 borrowers' cards are in force. Its circulation during the last year before it became free was less than 33,000; during the library year recently ended nearly 213,000 books were issued for home use. As a proprietary institution its yearly revenues were more than \$8000; now they are little in excess of \$17,000. To sum up, in 10 years as a free library the book collection has increased more than two and one-half times; the membership is more than 43 times as great; the circulation is nearly seven times as large; and the money for the work has not been doubled.

—From *Lib. Bulletin*, April.

Worcester (Mass.) County Law L. (6th rpt.—year ending March 11, 1904.) Added 749; total not given. Use of books, 15,412 v. by 2246 readers. The chief accessions of the year are noted, and Dr. Wire makes some practical comments on binding and repairing and describes the processes used.

FOREIGN.

Aberdeen (Scotl.) P. L. (19th rpt.—year ending Sept. 30, 1903.) Added, ref. dept. 1480, lending dept. 1704; total, ref. dept. 28,819; lending dept. 32,692. Issued, home use

270,182; recorded issue in ref. dept. 18,894. New registration 10,882.

The hour of opening for the lending department has been changed from 11 to 9.30 a.m., and Wednesday afternoon closing has been discontinued. The late hour of morning opening which has heretofore prevailed was owing to "the operations to be performed in connection with the previous day's issue. The method of registration in force, it ought to be said, while perfect in its work, and probably the very best in use so far as the public are concerned, entails, naturally, very accurate work and much labor on the staff. It has been found possible, however, to modify the inside working of the system considerably, without impairing its efficiency."

Manchester, Eng. John Rylands L. The library *Bulletin*, v. 1, no. 2 (July, 1903-March, 1904), contains a summary of the work of the library during 1903. Accessions for the year 4242 (2121 purchased), make "a total of 15,440 v. added to the resources of the library since the formal opening, which took place on Oct. 6, 1899." The most important additions are noted, among them 32 volumes of incunabula, four 15th century Latin editions of the Bible, the "Wicked Bible" of 1631, and an unrecorded edition of Erasmus's Latin Testament, printed at Basle by Hervagius in 1523. From Mrs. Rylands were received nearly 2000 volumes upon comparative religion, occult sciences, mysticism, spiritualism, and allied subjects. This collection "formed part of the library of the late Mr. Joseph Whitehead, of Hollinwood, to the formation of which he devoted between 60 and 70 years." The library receives 158 periodicals. The collection of works dealing with Greek and Latin palaeography has been strengthened, and a list of the most important titles in these subjects is given in the *Bulletin*. Monthly lectures were given in the conference room of the library during the year, and on these evenings the library was thrown open to the public; "special exhibitions were arranged in the library in connection with each lecture, which gave to them the added character of demonstrations." "Much more serious use has been made of the library during the year under review than in any previous year, and it is evident that the wider knowledge of the resources of the library has brought a correspondingly large attendance of readers."

Gifts and Bequests.

Concord (Mass.) F. P. L. By the will of the late Samuel Hoar the library received the sum of \$2000 for its art department, and Mr. Hoar's office table, which was used as a cabinet table by the successive presidents and cabinets at Washington, beginning with President Madison and ending with President Grant. Upon the death of his wife, Mr. Hoar bequeathes to the library the sum of \$10,000,

to be used for the purchase of books, and if no lineal descendants survive the residue of his personal property is to be divided in equal shares between the library and the president and fellows of Harvard College.

Northampton, Mass. Forbes L. On April 18 announcement was made of the recent gift of Mrs. Charles A. Cutter, widow of the late librarian, of a fund of \$5000, the income of which is to be devoted to the librarian's salary. The gift was made on condition that a yearly amount equal to the income of the fund be added to the salary appropriation by the city council, the result being an increase in the librarian's salary from \$1800 to \$2500. Mrs. Cutter's gift, in memory of her husband, was made with the desire of securing a better administration than the small salary previously paid would have permitted, and thus carrying on the work of Mr. Charles A. Cutter, whose service in the Forbes Library was in such large measure a labor of love, uninfluenced by considerations of salary.

Ohio State L., Columbus. The private library of the late John Sherman, containing about 5000 volumes, has been presented to the state library, where it will be preserved intact as a memorial.

Carnegie library gifts.

Amherst, O. March 31. \$10,000.

Hammond, Ind. April 13. \$25,000.

Kingman, Kan. April 3. \$10,000.

Librarians.

ASHHURST, John, since December, 1901, librarian of the Mercantile Library of Philadelphia, has been appointed assistant librarian of the Free Library of Philadelphia, with which he was connected before his association with the Mercantile Library. His successor at the Mercantile Library is T. Wilson Hedley, formerly secretary, and a member of the board of directors of that library.

CUTTER, William Parker, chief of the order department of the Library of Congress, was on April 16 elected librarian of the Forbes Library, Northampton, Mass., succeeding his uncle, the late Charles A. Cutter. Mr. Cutter, who has been connected with the Library of Congress for the past three years, was for eight years previously librarian of the Department of Agriculture. He has long been interested in library activities in Washington, especially in the District of Columbia Library Association and in the Columbian University Library School, and for ten years he has been an active member of the American Library Association. It is interesting to note that Mr. Cutter's appointment was to some degree made possible by the recent gift of \$5000 to the Forbes Library by Mrs. Charles A. Cutter, the income of which was to be applied to the librarian's salary.

HARDIN, Miss Pauline Helm, recently re-

elected state librarian of Kentucky, for a four-year term, was married on April 12, at her home in Hodgenville, to Col. Solomon L. Van Meter, of Fayette County, Ky. Miss Hardin's sister, Mrs. Katharine Foreman, was appointed to serve as her representative at the library in her absence.

HILL, Miss Cora M., for nine and one-half years a member of the staff of the Evanston (Ill.) Public Library, and for the past two years assistant librarian, was married to Mr. Thomas Bowen Rankin on April 28.

HUTCHINS, Frank A., secretary of the Wisconsin Free Library Commission from its organization in 1895, has resigned that position owing to ill health. Mr. Hutchins' retirement will be a matter of regret to his many friends in the library field and to all who have known the enthusiasm, earnestness and devotion that he brought to his chosen work. He was in large measure the guiding spirit of the Wisconsin commission, and the remarkable advance in library efficiency brought about in that state was mainly the result of his indefatigable ardor and self-sacrificing efforts. For the past 14 months Mr. Hutchins has been on leave of absence, having suffered a breakdown from nervous exhaustion, and has spent some time at sanitariums in Michigan and the Adirondacks, being now near Asheville, N. C. In view of the slow recovery of his health his request to the commission to accept his resignation was regretfully acceded to.

KEPHART, Horace, formerly librarian of the St. Louis (Mo.) Mercantile Library, requests the JOURNAL to state that he has entirely recovered from his recent illness, newspaper reports of which were much exaggerated, and is now in good health and engaged in literary work.

KINGMAN, Miss Helene A., cataloger at the Trenton (N. J.) Free Public Library, died at the home of her sister, in Vineland, N. J., on April 22. Miss Kingman was a graduate of the Drexel Institute Library School, class of 1900, and had been connected as cataloger with the Trenton library from its organization in 1901 until her short but fatal illness. Of her work there the librarian writes: "Her professional reputation may have been limited to the locality of her work, but the memory of her gentle dignity and kindly helpfulness will live long among all her numerous friends. Her quiet, serene life was a message of unfaltering sincerity, of earnestness and unselfish loyalty to duty."

KOCH, Theodore W., on the staff of the Library of Congress, was on April 14 appointed assistant librarian of the University of Michigan.

LEGIER, Henry E., of Milwaukee, was on April 8 elected secretary of the Wisconsin Free Library Commission, succeeding Mr. F. A. Hutchins, resigned. Mr. Legier has for many years been prominent in journalistic,

literary and educational activities in Wisconsin, and his acceptance of this post is a matter of satisfaction to all interested in the work of the library commission. Born of Swiss parentage in Palermo, Italy, in 1861, Mr. Legler at an early age removed to America with his parents and most of his boyhood was passed at La Crosse, Wis. In 1880 when but 19 years old he became city editor of the *La Crosse Republican-Leader* and in 1882 joined the staff of the *Milwaukee Sentinel*, with which he was associated until 1890, serving a term, in 1888, as member of the Legislature. In January, 1890, he was appointed secretary of the Milwaukee school board, a post that he has held until the present time. Mr. Legler has always been deeply interested in educational and historical matters, and has written many articles and monographs on Wisconsin history. He is a member of the American Historical Association, of the Wisconsin Historical Society, and secretary of the Parkman Club of Milwaukee.

SHAW, Robert Kendall, on the staff of the Library of Congress, was on April 29 elected librarian of the Brockton (Mass.) Public Library, succeeding Clarence W. Ayer, resigned. Mr. Shaw was born in 1872 in Worcester, Mass., where his father is principal of the Worcester Military Institute. He is a graduate of Harvard, class of '94, and of the New York State Library School, class of '99, and has been connected with the Library of Congress since 1901.

SPOFFORD, Ainsworth R., assistant librarian of the Library of Congress, sailed on April 12 for a three months' trip in Italy.

STEVENSON, William M., formerly librarian of the Allegheny (Pa.) Carnegie Library, sailed on April 30 for Europe, where he will spend the greater part of the summer.

Cataloging and Classification.

The BOSTON BOOK CO. *Bulletin of Bibliography* for April contains further instalments of Mr. Cole's "Bermuda in periodical literature," and Mr. Josephson's "Index to *Book Lore* and *Bibliographer*;" a first part of a "List of books indexed in the A. L. A. portrait index," showing how large is the field there covered; and the usual "Quarterly index to reference lists."

The BOSTON P. L. *Bulletin* for April contains a short reference list on "Coloration in amphibia and reptilia," prepared in connection with the lectures of Dr. Hans Gadew before the Lowell Institute.

BROOKLYN (N. Y.) P. L. Books on the Far East, China, Japan, Korea, Manchuria, Russia and Siberia. Brooklyn, April, 1904. 8 p. O.

Nearly 1000 titles are included in this compact list, which gives an excellent general survey of literature on these subjects.

The CAMBRIDGE (Mass.) P. L. *Bulletin* for April contains a "Selected list of books and recent periodical literature relating to the Louisiana Purchase and the St. Louis Exposition."

The ENOCH PRATT F. L. *Bulletin* for January (v. 9, no. 4), just issued, is devoted to a record of the accessions of 1903. It is a classed list running from p. 88 to p. 180.

The HERMAN BOSLER MEMORIAL L. (*Carlisle, Pa.*) has begun the issue of a bulletin with the number for March. It contains short reading lists on Arbor day and Memorial day.

JOHN CRERAR L., *Chicago*. A list of books on industrial arts, October, 1903. Chicago, 1904. 249 p. I. O. 20 c.

This is the fifth of the library's bibliographical publications and takes the same high rank as its predecessors in usefulness and excellence. It was prepared at the request of the Industrial Art League, of Chicago, and includes 1625 entries; but it is pointed out that "the collection is as yet neither large nor well rounded out, and lacks many standard works; it would not have been made the subject of a special publication at this time had it not been for the request already mentioned." In style and arrangement the list is similar to the library's preceding publications, being printed from the electrotypes of the catalog cards. The arrangement is chronological (latest titles being given first) under classed divisions, and a detailed index gives subjects, titles, names of places and persons in one alphabetical arrangement. There are no cross references in the main list, and titles are repeated under allied headings, which of course considerably increases the bulk of the work.

JOHN RYLANDS L., *Manchester, Eng.* *Bulletin*. vol. 1, no. 2, July, 1903-March, 1904. p. 59-119 O.

Besides a report of the year's work, noted elsewhere, this number of the *Bulletin* contains a short reference list on "The movement of Old Testament scholarship in the 19th century: a classed list of A selection from the works bearing upon the study of Greek and Latin palaeography and diplomatic" (p. 10-79), also reprinted in separate form; a "Classified list of recent additions to the library" (p. 80-119). The first number of this *Bulletin* (v. 1, no. 1, April-June, 1903), bore the designation *Quarterly*, which is dropped from the present issue.

— Catalogue of an exhibition of Bibles illustrating the history of the English versions from Wiclif to the present time, including the personal copies of Queen Elizabeth, General Gordon, and Elizabeth Fry. Manchester, March 7, 1904. 32 p. O.

This exhibition was arranged in honor of the centenary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, which was founded on March 7,

1804. It is stated that it has been equalled only once before, at the time of the Caxton celebration in London, 1877. The catalog is of extreme interest, the descriptive notes and full entries giving practically a review of the historic development of the Bible in English literature. The examples shown were confined to versions or editions possessing historic significance, from 12 manuscripts of the Wicliffite Bible or portions of it (1382-1444) to the exquisite Cambridge edition (1903) now in course of publication by Cobden Sanderson at the Doves Press.

—Works upon the study of Greek and Latin palaeography and diplomatic in the John Rylands Library; reprinted from the "Quarterly bulletin of the John Rylands Library," July-December, 1903. 16 p. O.

As this is reprinted from the *Bulletin* (July, 1903-March, 1904), noted above, the latter part of the title-page is inaccurate. The list indicates the great interest and strength of the library in this department.

The KANSAS CITY (Mo.) P. L. *Quarterly* for April is mainly a "nature number," with reading lists on Nature studies, Garden craft, Flowers, Child culture, Juvenile nature books, and New thought.

The NEW YORK P. L. *Bulletin* for April prints the report of George Sibbald, on the Yazou purchase of 1802, from the original manuscript in the Ford collection; and part 4 of Miss Hasse's extensive list on political rights, constitutions and constitutional law, devoted to "The United States, constitutions of individual states."

The OSTERHOUT (*Wilkes-Barré, Pa.*) F. L. *Bulletin* for April contains a short "Selected reading list on the Far East."

The OTIS L. (*Norwich, Ct.*) *Bulletin* for March contains a two-page reading list on China, Japan and Russia.

PRINTED CATALOG CARDS FOR ARTICLES ON AGRICULTURAL TOPICS. The library of the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., announces that it contemplates the issue of printed catalog cards for articles in certain standard periodicals devoted to agricultural topics. The cards will be sold in sets at the rate of one cent for the first copy of any card and half a cent for each additional copy of the same card furnished at the same time. An "author entry set" will include one copy only of each separate card printed. A "complete set" will include, in addition to the author set, all the cards required to bring out the subject entries suggested on the cards in the author entry set. The periodicals which have been analyzed, the approximate number of cards required for each, and the price of the sets are as follows (figures as to number of cards and price cover the issues of the periodicals to the end of 1903):

Annales de la science agronomique, 1884-1903. Author set includes 328 cards; price \$3.28. Complete set includes 844 cards; price \$5.92.
Landwirtschaftliche Jahrbücher, 1872-1903, v. 1-31. Author entry set includes 838 cards; price \$8.38. Complete set includes about 2500 cards; price about \$17.
Die landwirtschaftlichen Versuchsstationen, 1859-1903, v. 1-57. Author entry set includes 1378 cards; price \$13.78. Complete set includes about 4100 cards; price about \$27.

The cards for each periodical will also be made up in classes and sold at the rate of two cents for the first card and half a cent for each additional card furnished at the same time. The following classes will be represented: 1, Agricultural economics and sociology. 2, General sciences. 3, Air, meteorology, and climatology. 4, Water. 5, Soils. 6, Fertilizers. 7, Field crops. 8, Horticulture. 9, Forestry. 10, Plant diseases. 11, Entomology. 12, Foods and nutrition of man. 13, Feeding stuffs. 14, Animal industry. 15, Dairy farming and dairying. 16, Veterinary medicine. 17, Agricultural technology. 18, Agricultural engineering. A single card or a set of cards for any article in these periodicals can be purchased at the rate of two cents and a half for the first card and half a cent for each additional card furnished at the same time with the first.

In the *Experiment Station Record*, published by the Department, for March (p. 639-641), this undertaking is reviewed more fully. No free sets will be distributed either to libraries or individuals, and it is pointed out that the price charged is barely sufficient to cover the cost of printing and distribution. "If a sufficient number of sets are subscribed for in advance, this mechanical work will be undertaken by the Library of Congress as a part of its card distribution work, although the preparation of the index will remain in the Department. Prospective subscribers are requested to communicate promptly with the Department Librarian in order to hasten the printing of the cards, and notice will be sent out when they are ready for delivery regarding the proper method of payment."

The ST. LOUIS (Mo.) P. L. *Bulletin* for April has a short list of "Books for out-of-doors."

ST. LOUIS (Mo.) P. L. Class list no. 1, revised and enlarged: English prose fiction. St. Louis, 1903 [1904]. 280+68 p. O.

Authors and titles in one alphabet, with analytical entries for short stories. No call numbers are given. Appended are several interesting lists of "Best novels."

—Class list no. 2: German prose fiction, revised and enlarged. St. Louis, 1903 [1904]. 126+2 p. O.

Similar in form to class list no. 1.

The SALEM (Mass.) P. L. *Bulletin* for April contains a special reading list on "The Far Eastern question."

Bibliography.

CHINA. Cordier, Henri. *Bibliotheca Sinica: dictionnaire bibliographique des ouvrages relatifs à l'empire Chinois.* 2. éd., revue, corrigée et considérablement augmentée. 1. Fasc. 1. Paris, E. Guilmoto, 1904. 416 p. 25 fr.

CHINESE IMMIGRATION. Library of Congress. Select list of references on Chinese immigration; comp. under the direction of A. P. C. Griffin, chief of Division of Bibliography. Washington, Gov. Print. Office, 1904. 32 p. 1. O.

Includes about 61 titles of books, besides government publications, and 133 entries of articles in periodicals.

ELECTRIC RAILWAYS. Gotshall, W. C. Notes on electric railway economics and preliminary engineering. New York, McGraw Publishing Co., 1903. 5+251 p. 8°. Contains a five-page bibliography.

FLEAS. Smithsonian Institution. A revision of American siphonaptera, or fleas, together with a complete list and bibliography of the group; by Carl F. Baker. (From the Proceedings of the United States National Museum, v. 27, p. 365-469.) Washington, Gov. Print. Office, 1904. p. 365-469, pl. O. The bibliography includes 83 titles.

LANG, Andrew. The *English Illustrated Magazine* for March, 1904. (30:684+), in "Our birthday portraits" series, gives a bibliography of the works by and about Andrew Lang. It is an imposing list. The same number concludes the bibliography of George Meredith. The number for April gives in the same series extended bibliographies of Henry James and Lord Avebury.

MOHAMMEDANISM. Macdonald, Duncan B. Development of Muslim theology, jurisprudence, and constitutional theory. (Semitic series.) New York, Scribner, 1903. 14+386 p. 12°.

Pages 358-367 contain a classified and annotated bibliography.

NOSTRADAMUS. T. Kellen, in the *Börsenblatt für den deutschen Buchhandel*, March 26, 1904, adds a number of titles to the Nostradamus bibliography noted in L. J., March, p. 154.

PHILIPPINES. Pardo de Tavera, T. H. *Biblioteca Filipina: o sea catalogo razonado de todos los impresos, tanto insulares como extranjeros, relativos á la historia, la etnografía, la lingüística, la botánica, la fauna, la flora, la geología, la hidrografía, la geogra-*

fía, la legislación, etc., de las islas filipinas, de Jolo y Marianas; published under the direction of the Library of Congress and the Bureau of Insular Affairs, War Department. Washington, Gov. Print. Office, 1903 [1904]. 439 p. 1. O.

This comprehensive bibliography of the Philippines is practically a supplement to the "List of books on the Philippines," recently issued by the Library of Congress (L. J., Jan., p. 43). It is the result of many years of work on the part of its compiler, Dr. Pardo de Tavera, and though it shows lack of bibliographical skill in its method, it is of value in its very full record of Philippine literature. The compiler's preface and the bibliography itself are in Spanish, a brief editorial note being furnished by the Library of Congress.

PUBLISHING AND BOOKSELLING. Peet, W. H. Bibliography of publishing and bookselling. (*In Notes and Queries*, March 5, March 26, April 16, 1904. 10th series, 1:184-186, 242-245, 304-306.)

These instalments extend from Deacon to Rylands.

PUTNAM, Herbert. The manuscript sources for American history. (*In North American Review*, April, 1904. 178:527-538.)

Of great interest to the historical student, telling where various manuscript sources are to be found.

REPLIER, Agnes. What women read. (*In Harper's Bazar*, April, 1904. 38:393-396.)

Avers that the most intelligent writing is done for men. The implication is that the less intelligent writing is read by women.

TRADE-UNIONS. Barnett, George E., ed. A trial bibliography of American trade-union publications; prepared by the Economic Seminary of the Johns Hopkins University. (Johns Hopkins University studies in historical and political science, Jan.-Feb., 1904. Series 22, nos. 1-2.) 112 p. 8°.

The publications are arranged under the organizations issuing them, and following each title is a letter indicating where it may be found, as follows: Johns Hopkins University, U. S. Department of Labor, The John Crerar Library, the Library of Congress, and the central office of the union or federation. Most of the titles consist of constitutions and reports of proceedings of conventions. The variety of trades included is most interesting.

WELSH BIBLE. The Cardiff (*Wales*) Free Library has arranged an exhibition of Welsh editions of the Bible, opened in March to continue until October. The exhibition contains an almost complete series of editions, from 1567 to 1900. If sufficient subscribers

are forthcoming it is proposed to publish, before the close of the exhibition, a volume giving a full description of every known edition of the Scriptures in Welsh, with notes as to the editors, patrons, number of copies printed, and other information. The volume will be illustrated with facsimiles of letters never before available, in the autograph of Bishop Morgan, Bishop Parry and others. The price to subscribers will be five shillings, and it is hoped that a sufficient number of subscriptions may be secured to permit the carrying through of the enterprise.

WISCONSIN. Legler, H: E: Early Wisconsin imprints: a preliminary essay. [From Proceedings of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1903.] Madison, Wis., State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1904. 22 p. +6 pl. O.

A brief tentative account of the activity of the printing press in Wisconsin from 1836, when Lapham's "Catalogue of plants and shells" was published in Milwaukee, to 1850. To the historical account, illustrated with facsimiles, are added a chronology and a bibliography listing 54 publications.

INDEXES.

A PRIZE COMPETITION in the making of an index is something new in the way of advertising a popular magazine. The *English Illustrated Magazine* offers 50 prizes "to those who show the greatest skill and thoroughness in compiling an index on a given subject," in this case, all the advertisements that occupy a quarter-page or more in the April, May, and June numbers of the magazine. The prizes will be paid in articles advertised in the magazine, to the value of the amount awarded, the articles to be selected by the winners. The first prize is of the value of £25 (\$125), the second £10, the third £5, and a large number of minor prizes, 10s., 5s., etc.

Notes and Queries.

WHAT IS A PLATE?—In the column of "Notes and queries," in the April number of the *LIBRARY JOURNAL*, your correspondent, "N. E. B.," inquires "What is a plate?" "The American dictionary of printing and book-making," New York (Howard Lockwood & Co.), 1894, defines a plate to be "An illustration of any kind inserted [the italics are mine] in a book." C. T. Jacobi, of the Chiswick Press, in his "Printers' vocabulary," London, 1888, uses almost identically the same terms in his definition of the term. By this, as I understand it, is meant any illustration printed separately from the sheets which properly go to make up the book. Plates, as above defined, are usually printed upon heavier paper than the book itself and from designs engraved or etched upon steel or cop-

per. These have to be printed by a different process and upon a different press from that used in printing from type and woodcut blocks.

Full-page illustrations are often printed in semblance of plates, with or without text on their reverse. These are sometimes included in the pagination and sometimes not. The best way to detect such quasi-plates is to make a thorough collation of the book by signatures. If the leaves upon which they are printed are needed to complete the signatures, they should be classed as full-page illustrations and not as plates, whether they are included in the pagination or not.

I know of one case where plates, printed upon Japanese vellum, are inserted in a book, printed on hand-made paper, and yet are included in the pagination. Other irregularities could be named, but doubtless enough has already been said to satisfy the inquiry of your correspondent. I fully agree that a handbook in which bibliographical terms were carefully defined would be a very desirable work.

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ST. MEMIN PORTRAITS.—Dr. William J. Campbell, the well-known bookseller of Philadelphia, is writing an elaborate work on St. Memin portraits, to be issued in eight volumes, with over 830 engraved portraits. The basis of the work will be the "collection" of 761 proofs, made by the artist himself, which has recently come into Dr. Campbell's possession. The Corcoran Gallery of Art and the Library of Congress, both of which have extensive collections, are co-operating with the author, giving him the use of any portraits that they possess that are not in his own collection, and he states that any one possessing information either biographical or genealogical about any portrait that St. Memin made, or any information as to the present whereabouts of any original crayons, coppers or engravings, will confer a favor on the author by communicating with him. Due credit will be given in the book for all information received. Dr. Campbell's address is 1218 Walnut street, Philadelphia.

BOOKS FOR DISTRIBUTION.—I have for distribution several hundred copies of "Urann's History of Cleveland" (1896, paper, 120 p.), which I shall be glad to send to libraries on receipt of four cents postage.

WM. H. BRETT, Librarian,
Public Library, Cleveland.

CORRECTION.—The reference to Mr. Luther Kelker as "head of the Archives department of the Division of Public Records in the Maryland State Library" (L. J., April, p. 187), was an error. Mr. Kelker is the head of this department in the Pennsylvania State Library, for which the work described by him at the Atlantic City library meeting is being done.

FIRES IN LIBRARIES.

The Chronicle Fire Tables show a loss in twenty-eight years of 163 Public Libraries in the United States. This does not include the losses of the past winter, which have been unusually large.

The lesson taught by these figures is the necessity for the elimination, as far as possible, of combustible materials both in the construction and equipment of library buildings. Woodwork has no place where the security of valuable books is desired, and it should be remembered that it burns as readily in a fireproof building as anywhere else.

Probably 99 per cent. of the important collections of manuscripts, art books, etc., donated to libraries are protected (?) in highly varnished wooden cabinets with electric wires in close proximity. Every now and then the press reports another "invaluable collection" gone. Public Records are now almost universally being stored in incombustible cabinets, and the same practice should be observed for important library accumulations.

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